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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

April 2011 Adar II/Nissan 5771 Volume XXXV: Number 7 FREE

Andrea Rosner-Najer appointed new JCC executive director

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Following a nation-wide search, the board of directors of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor has appointed Andrea Rosner-Najer its new executive director.

Rosner-Najer brings to the JCC more than 20 years administrative experience in the non-profit and Jewish world. Rosner-Najer served first as an administrator and then as the director of residential operations for Jewish Senior Life of Metropolitan Detroit since 1992. Jewish Senior Life is a multi-facility Jewish senior housing organization on two JCC campuses. Her vast responsibilities included managing and supervising eight residential properties with more than 900 residents, 36 assisted living apartments and 106 residences licensed as homes for the aged. With 10 managers reporting directly to her, she also had indirect supervisory responsibility for more than 200 professional caregivers. The facilities not only provide housing but also many related services ,including independent/congregate and assisted living environments. As director, Rosner-Najer was responsible for financial and business operations, personnel, maintenance, kosher food service, and family and resident relations.

Prior to working with Jewish Senior Life, Rosner-Najer was a counselor/consultant for Personal Performance Consultants, a national employee assistance and counseling firm. She also served as the director of social work and medical/hospice social work for Riverside Hospital.

(l. to r.) Leslie Bash, JCC President Seth Penchansky, Andrea Rosner-Najer

Rosner-Najer earned a masters of social work degree from Wayne State University, where she also received her undergraduate degree. Her husband, Nelson Najer, is employed by Michigan Basic Property Insurance of Michigan. They have two children, Sarah, age 8 and William, age 10.

Rosner-Najer will be replacing Leslie Bash, who retired in March after serving for almost 10 years as executive director of the JCC.

Nancy Margolis, chair of the executive director search committee, said, "We are thrilled to have found someone of Andrea's caliber. She comes with an amazing background of administrative accomplishments and proven management skills. Add to that her genuine warmth and welcoming smile. Andrea will be a valuable asset to our JCC and our community."

David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, said, "I feel that Andrea will bring a very positive and healthy concept of community and the role the JCC can play in the community. I believe the experience she has working in a non-profit Jewish setting for so many years is a big advantage and I think it is a plus that she has a lot of supervisory experience and even property management experience, since that is an important piece of inhabiting the JCC building."

Leslie Bash, the JCC's retiring executive director, said "I am extremely pleased that Andrea Rosner-Najer will be coming to the JCC as the executive director. I look forward to working with her in the transition. She is a thoroughly seasoned professional who has many skills and talents that will be very beneficial to the JCC. I am very pleased that she is committed to continuing the growth of the agency and its efforts to serve the Ann Arbor Jewish community with a wealth of social, educational, and cultural programming for every member of the family. Her vision will enhance our commitment to community and Jewish identity." ■

Celebrate cultural arts at the JCC

Mimi Weisberg, special to the WJN

Spring is a perfect time to celebrate Jewish cultural arts in Ann Arbor. This first Cultural Arts Festival will draw attention to Jewish authors, filmmakers, musicians, artists, and educators. This year the Festival will be held April 11–13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The program will feature four speakers. Each event will include dessert and cost $6. The series of three events is $15. Books will be available for purchase and will be provided by Nicola's Books.

Continued on page 2

Martin Shichtman

Laurie Finke

Arie Lipsky

Jeffrey Bernstein

JCS benef t showing of *Amreeka* at the Michigan Theater April 21

Neal Elkin, special to the WJN

The Jewish Cultural Society Social Action Committee will present the award-winning movie *Amreeka* on April 21 at the Michigan Theater. *Amreeka* is the story of an immigrant Palestinian mother, Muna, and her teenage son, Fadi, who are relocating from the West Bank to the heartland of America.

Muna, who had a job as a bank manager, tries to get a job in an American bank, but faces discrimination and ends up selling hamburgers at White Castle instead. Fadi gets teased and bullied by his new high school classmates. Those in the Jewish community who spent their teenage years in small non-Jewish towns will readily identify with Fadi's stressful situation. He finally winds up in trouble with police when he fights back against the bullies, but Mr. Novatski, Fadi's Jewish high school principal, befriends the newcomers and comes to Fadi's rescue. It's a heartwarming lesson in cooperation.

Amreeka was written and directed by Cherian Dabis, a Palestinian-Jordanian immigrant who was a young teenager in rural Ohio during the first Gulf War. Her experience with discrimination played a key role in motivating her to make the movie. She explained to an interviewer: "We got death threats and the Secret Service even came to my high school to investigate a rumor that my 17-year-old sister

Continued on page 2

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Annual U-M Holocaust commemoration on the diag

Chelsea Golub, special to the WJN

The University of Michigan Conference on the Holocaust will hold its annual Yom Hashoah event on April 4–5 beginning at 6 p.m. on the U-M diag. For 24 hours, students, faculty, community members, and Holocaust survivors will read aloud the names of those who perished in the Holocaust. The event stresses commemoration, remembrance, and the message of "never again." Anyone interested in reading aloud for the 30-minute time slots can contact Haley Volk at coth.um@gmail.com.

JCS Benefit, from page 1

PHOTO: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENTERTAINMENT

Scene from *Amreeka*

threatened to kill the president."

Amreeka has won numerous awards, and is on the Critics' Pick list of the *New York Times*. Proceeds from the evenings screening will go to Doctors Without Borders.

Showtime is 7 p.m. The movie is rated PG-13. Admission is $9 for adults, $7 for children and students with ID. Tax-deductible sponsorships are available: Silver is $100 and Gold is $250. For more information on becoming a sponsor or to buy tickets in advance, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org. ■

Cultural Arts Festival, from page 1

On April 11, Martin Shichtman and Laurie Finke, authors of *Cinematic Illuminations: The Middle Ages,* will speak on "Jewish Mysticism and Darren Aronofsky's Pi." Shichtman is director of Jewish Studies and professor of English language at Eastern Michigan University. Finke is cchair of Women's and Gender Studies at Kenyon College. They have worked collaboratively for more than 25 years and have produced two books, two collections of essays, and more than a dozen scholarly articles. *Cinematic Illuminations* considers how popular culture interprets and makes use of the past through the medium of film.

Maestro Arie Lipsky of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will speak on April 12 about his own biography, as well as his father's fascinating life story, in his topic: "Because the Voice Called." Born in Haifa, Israel, Lipsky embarked on his career in music at a young age, learning both flute and cello, and was soon entering and winning young artist competitions. After studying aeronautical engineering in college and serving briefly in the Israeli armed forces, Lipsky returned to music and moved to the United States. Since joining the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in 2000, Lipsky has continued to appear as a guest conductor at venues around the world, to tour and perform at his cello.

On April 13, the JCC will welcome Jeffrey Bernstein to the Festival to speak on the topic: "Citizenship and *Tikkun Olam* Across the Curriculum." Bernstein is professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University, where he has been on the faculty since 1997. He is co-editor and contributing author of *Citizenship Across the Curriculum* and of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters.

Next year's festival will highlight a talent showcase entitled: "Jewbilee!" The tentative dates for the Festival are March 10-14, 2012. Each act will feature a Jewish artist but not necessarily have Jewish content. Community members aged 14–98 are invited to contact Mimi Weisberg for information on next year's event. ■

For more information or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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The deadline for the May 2011 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Friday, April 8.
Publication date: Wednesday, April 27.
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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JCS presents dramatic reading of *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak* at Sunday Schmooze event

Kristine Freeark, special to the WJN

Local area youth will perform dramatic readings from Deborah Ellis's book, *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. *Three Wishes* consists of Palestinian and Jewish Israeli children's frank accounts, recorded in 2002, of how their lives are affected by conflict and occupation. Dr. Irene Butter and Mark Wenzel will direct the performance and lead the discussion that follows. The readers represent area high schools and universities and they will present their reflections on how the voices and messages of these children have impacted them. This event on Sunday, April 24, is part of the Jewish Cultural Society's Sunday Schmooze program and is sponsored by the JCS Social Action Committee.

Deborah Ellis is an award-winning author of books for and about children on complex and pressing topics. In *Three Wishes* she gives voice to the experiences and perspectives of children "about how the choices other people have made affect their lives. The history of the area and its people is a weight that has been placed, none too gently, on their shoulders," Ellis explained in a 2006 interview.

Dr. Irene Butter grew up as a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Europe. She survived two German concentration camps and one displaced persons camp before immigrating to the United States. She has been involved in peace and justice projects for most of her life and most recently her focus has been coexistence in the Middle East. She is also cofounder of Zeitouna, a group of Arab and Jewish women working for a just peace, and a member of Temple Beth Emeth.

Mark Wenzel is a human rights activist and philosopher with a passion for affirming the lives of children by ensuring that their voices have as wide an audience as possible. He is a member of St. Clare's Episcopal Church and teaches philosophy at Wayne State University.

The JCS Sunday Schmooze program presents topics addressing a wide range of issues impacting the Jewish community both historically and currently. The participant discussion afterward is always lively, as well as informed. The entire community is invited to attend this presentation, which will take place on April 24 from 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. ■

Documentary *Off and Running* at AADL

Tim Grimes, special to the WJN

The 2009 award-winning documentary, *Off and Running*, will be shown at the Ann Arbor District Library downtown branch on Tuesday, April 19, from 7–8:30 p.m. *Off and Running* is an American coming-of-age story—and one shaped by the new realities of an increasingly diverse American population, especially as those realities affect family life.

Scenes from *Off and Running*

With white Jewish lesbians for parents and two adopted brothers—one mixed-race and one Korean—Brooklyn teen Avery grew up in a unique and loving household. The film opens with the popular high school track star in her junior year, looking forward to college and a successful life. But when her curiosity about her African-American roots grows, she decides to contact her birth mother. This choice propels Avery into her own complicated exploration of race, identity, and family that threatens to distance her from the parents she's always known. She begins staying away from home, starts skipping school, and risks losing her shot at the college track career she had always dreamed of. But when Avery decides to pick up the pieces of her life and make sense of her identity, the results are inspiring. *Off And Running* follows Avery to the brink of adulthood, exploring the strength of family bonds and the lengths people must go to become themselves.

The film is rated PG-13. For more information on this event, call the library at 327-4555 or visit aadl.org. ■

Jewish Film Festival returns to the Michigan Theater May 15–19

Mimi Weisberg, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, the Michigan Theater, and the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit will mark a decade of bringing provocative and entertaining motion pictures to Ann Arbor's renowned Michigan Theater with the 2011 Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival from Sunday, May 15 through Thursday, May 19.

Scene from *Inside Hana's Suitcase*

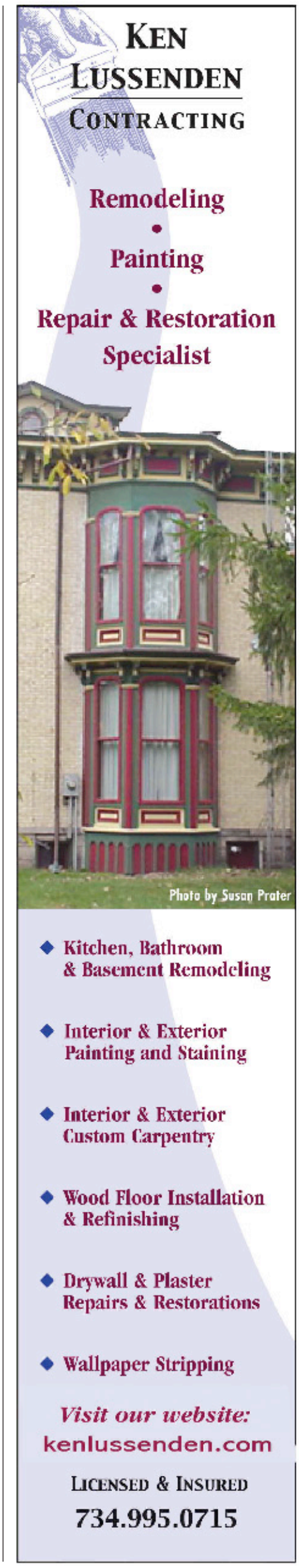
Titled "A Decade of Jewish Film Through Our Vibrant Lens," the festival will feature 15 films and two lunch-and-learn events. The festival will begin with a 2 p.m. matinee showing of *Inside Hana's Suitcase,* based on the internationally-acclaimed book *Hana's Suitcase*. The film blends documentary style with traditional dramatic techniques that highlights why the book has been translated into 40 different languages. This film is free of charge for students age 13 and under.

The evening film, *The Yankles*, offers fun for the family with a story based on the real adventure of an ex-convict that finds redemption by coaching an upstart, disorganized Orthodox Jewish baseball team. Showtime is called for 8 p.m., following a sponsor's reception catered by Lori Shepard of Dexter's Simply Scrumptious Catering.

The Festival ends May 19 with an 8 p.m. viewing of *Nora's Will*, a popular comedy from Mexico that explores how families cope with the loss of loved one in a humorous tone.

The remaining roster of films comes from Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, and the United States. Many of these films have won awards and three include actors recently nominated for Oscars.

All seats are $10 at the box office. Film festival passes for every showing are available to JCC members for $80 and $85 for non-JCC members. Sponsorships are still available and those interested should contact Mimi Weisberg for more details by calling 971-0990 or by e-mailing to mimiweisberg@jccfed.org. More details will also be available in the May *Washtenaw Jewish News.* ■



Stark-Nemons honored with Leadership Award at JFS January event

Jennifer Arapoff, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, a private nonprofit social services agency serving the greater Ann Arbor community and supported by The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and The United Way of Washtenaw County, presented Barry Nemon, M.D. and Barbara Stark-Nemon with their 2011 Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award on Sunday, January 23.

The award was presented at the agency's "Celebrating Harmony" event at Kensington Court Hotel in Ann Arbor. Past honorees include Ambassador Ronald N. Weiser and Albert M. Berriz; Kenneth Fischer; Phyllis and David Herzig; Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein; and Judie and Jerry Lax.

"The theme for this year's Bernstein Leadership Award event was 'celebrating harmony,'" says Phyllis Herzig, JFS president of the board of directors. "We chose this theme because the services that JFS provides to the individuals and families in our community [programs for older adults, employment services, resettlement and emergency assistance] fulfill essential needs in the community and are intended to create harmony—that is, to create a sense of balance and peace for people who are facing discord in their lives. By helping those who need help, and by serving as their 'family in the community,' JFS strives to create harmony in the home, harmony in the soul and harmony in the community.

"Another reason for the theme is more literal—our honorees, Barb and Barry, highlight the importance of *tikkun olam*, and demonstrate how much difference each one of us can make by doing whatever we can to repair the world. They are excellent examples of how we can live our lives harmoniously by giving to others. They are joyous, creative people who have also kept music at the forefront of their lives for many years."

PHOTO CREDIT: GREGORY FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

JFS Internationals Board President Phyllis Herzig and honorees Barbara Stark-Nemon and Barry Nemon, M.D.

Barry Nemon and Barbara Stark-Nemon are first generation Americans—three of their parents escaped Nazi rule in Europe. At age 17, Barry's father John came to a Department of Public Works program located in Chelsea, Michigan, where he quickly learned the language, then joined the U.S. Army and served during WWII in both Europe and the Far East before settling in Detroit.

Barry grew up in Detroit and attended undergraduate school at Michigan State University. He received his medical degree from Wayne State University, and did his residency in Emergency Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Today, Barry Nemon celebrates 31 years as a doctor and has been Director of Emergency Services at Chelsea Hospital for 25 years. He has also volunteered as a doctor at Camp Tamarack, where many generations of Nemon family members have been campers and staff members.

Barbara Stark-Nemon also grew up in Detroit and worked for 33 years as an English teacher, speech-language therapist, and university instructor before retiring in 2006 to begin a promising second career writing fiction. An excerpt of her first novel appears in the *Bear River Review*, and the manuscript was a winner at the San Miguel Writing Conference 2010 novel contest. She has a bachelors degree in English literature and art history and a M.S. in communication disorders from the University of Michigan. Barbara has served on the JFS board of directors since its inception as an independent agency. She has guided the JFS strategic planning process since 2001, and currently serves as the vice-president for community relations and development.

The "Celebrating Harmony" event was emceed by UMS President and past Bernstein Award recipient Ken Fischer, and featured a performance by internationally acclaimed concert pianist Louis Nagel, PhD. There was also a song and dance parody by Etcetera, an off-shoot of Ann Arbor performance group The Choral Connection.

"At Barbara and Barry's request, proceeds from the event will support the JFS Emergency Aid Fund," says executive director Anya Abramzon. "The Fund supports the critical work JFS does serving thousands of individuals facing life challenges in our community, including job loss, medical expenses, food and shelter issues and more, for families otherwise at risk due to the economic crisis. It was established by the 2008 Bernstein Leadership Award recipients, Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein, and has been an invaluable resource for the community these past few years. More than 2,500 clients were served last year alone—including many immigrants, refugees and asylees resettling here from war-torn corners of the world.

For more information about JFS of Washtenaw County's services, Emergency Aid Fund or volunteer opportunities, visit www.jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209. ■

JFS international soccer team takes the f eld

Jennifer Arapoff, special to the WJN

For the past three years, JFS has seen a wave of refugees fleeing war and unrest in their native countries, especially Iraq. Many of these refugees come from middle or upper-middle class families, and must start their lives from scratch in the United States.

The life transformation these clients undergo is overwhelming; many say they simply want to do a familiar activity in which they succeed, when every other part of life in America is confusing and new.

To answer this need, JFS has formed a soccer team—aptly named "The JFS Internationals"—comprised of refugees and immigrants from Iraq, Turkey, Brazil, and Mexico. In their first session, they played weekly games at WideWorld Sports Center in January and February. The hope is to continue to play in subsequent sessions throughout the year.

"We hope this team not only boosts our clients' self-esteem, because they are doing something familiar and that they are good at, but also allows them to meet new people, practice speaking English, and exercise," says Mira Sussman, JFS Resettlement program director.

Team co-captain Sabah Ferman says, "I played professional soccer for twelve years in Northern Iraq. I came to the United States because I am Kurdish. My brother was told they would kill him if we stayed, so we had to leave. I hope to play soccer professionally in America."

"I like playing soccer," agrees Haider (last name withheld for his safety), also from Iraq. "I like feeling responsible for the team and making connections with other players."

JFS Internationals soccer team with their families

The JFS Internationals received sponsorship for the initial eight-week session from Haifa Falafel, as well as donated shin guards from Play It Again Sports.

"We really hope to get sponsorship that will allow this team to continue," says Sussman. "It's been a hugely beneficial experience for these JFS clients, and it speaks volumes about the Jewish and Ann Arbor community's good will."

If you are interested in sponsoring the JFS Internationals, contact Mira Sussman at 769-0209 or mira@jfsannarbor.org. ■

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Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person

1 p.m.: Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects, and card games.

1 p.m.: Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf, and baseball. No sports or computer experience necessary.

Note: There will be no Tuesday SPICE activities on Tuesday, April 19, and Tuesday, April 26, (The JCC will be closed for Passover.)

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10

11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person

1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations. (See below for details)

2:15 p.m.: Literary Group facilitated by Sidney Warschausky. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

Fridays

1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Reading Group at the Jewish Community Center. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765

Special events

Thursday, April 7

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with April birthdays. Bring your family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

1 p.m.: Kaaren Strauch-Braun, a docent at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, will present on some of the art museum's holdings.

Wednesday, April 13

5:30–7 p.m.: Senior Seder led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation. Includes a catered meal. $25. Reserve by April 7 by contacting Merrill at 971-0990 or Merrill@jfsannarbor.org. Transportation can be arranged by calling Abbie at 769-0209 or abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Thursday, April 14

12:30 p.m.: A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures. FREE. 1 p.m: Eastern Michigan University faculty member, Julia Myers, will come to the JCC with a presentation on the art of Ruth Weisberg. Thursday, April 21

1 p.m.: A staff member from the **Area Agency on Aging 1-B** will bring a variety of driving tips.

Wednesday, April 27

1 p.m.: Arie Lipsky, musical director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, returns to Afternoon Delights with a group of his musical colleagues. $8 at the door or through the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.

Thursday, April 28

1 p.m.: Anita Norich, U-M professor of Judaic Studies and Frankel Scholar, will make a presentation.

Senior Seder set for April 13

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will again be hosting a Passover seder for Washtenaw County seniors and their families. This year the seder will take place on Wednesday, April 13, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The seder, led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin from Beth Israel Congregation, will include a catered Passover meal, music and a thought-provoking discussion of the ways in which Passover themes are uniquely relevant to the lives of older adults.

RSVP by April 7 at 971-0990 or merrill@jfsannarbor.org. The cost for the seder is $25. Transportation can be arranged through the JFS Transportation Service by calling Abbie at 769-0209 or abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

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APRIL

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National Theatre Live: *Frankenstein*

High-definition broadcast by London's National Theatre presented in partnership between UMS and the Michigan Theater
Danny Boyle director

Wed, Apr 6 | 7 PM
MICHIGAN THEATER

Oscar winner Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire, Trainspotting*) returns to his theater roots, directing a play by Nick Dear based on Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*.

CONTAINS THEMES OF AN ADULT NATURE; RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 15+.

Septeto Nacional Ignacio Piñeiro de Cuba

Thu, Apr 7 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

Performing some of the most treasured and well-known Cuban songs in the tradition of Ignacio Piñeiro Martínez, the group's exceptional musicianship is firmly rooted in the musical explosion of Cuban *son* that took place during the 1920s and 1930s.

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Schubert Cycle Concert 3
Takács Quartet

Jeffrey Kahane piano | **Paul Katz** cello
John Feeney double bass

Fri, Apr 8 | 8 PM
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Schubert — Piano Quintet in A Major, D. 667 ("Trout") (1819)
Schubert — Cello Quintet in C Major, D. 956 (1828)

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Tetzlaff Quartet

Sat, Apr 9 | 8 PM
RACKHAM AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Haydn — Quartet in g minor, Op. 20, No. 3 (1772)
Mendelssohn — Quartet in a minor, Op. 13 (1827)
Sibelius — Quartet in d minor, Op. 56 ("Voces Intimae") (1909)

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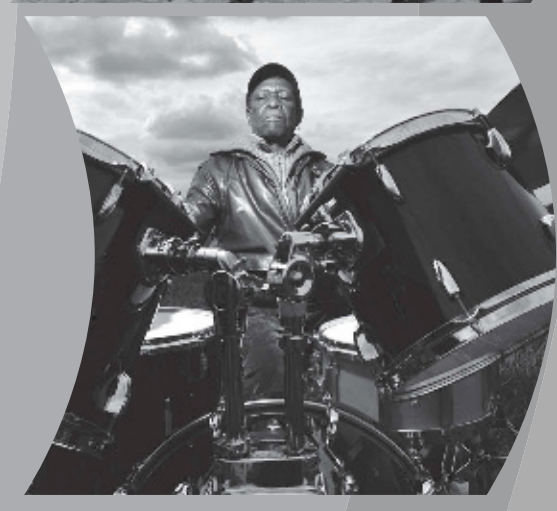
Secret Agent
Tony Allen's Afrobeat Tour

featuring **Detroit's Amp Fiddler** keyboards

Sat, Apr 16 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM



The drummer behind the legendary Nigerian bandleader Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Tony Allen is probably the most highly regarded African drum set player, with drummers and other musicians of all backgrounds marveling at his polyrhythmic style.

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MEDIA PARTNERS **WEMU 89.1 FM, MICHIGAN CHRONICLE,** AND **ANN ARBOR'S 107ONE.**

Liebeslieder Waltzes: Songs and Waltzes of Love

Sylvia Schwartz soprano
Bernarda Fink mezzo-soprano
Michael Schade tenor
Thomas Quasthoff bass-baritone
Malcolm Martineau piano
Justus Zeyen piano

Sat, Apr 23 | 8 PM
HILL AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Schumann — Spanische Liebeslieder, Op. 138 (1849)
Brahms — Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52 (1868-69)
Brahms — Four Songs from Quartets for Four Voices and Pianos, Ops. 64 & 92 (1862-84)
Brahms — Neue Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 65 (1874)

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michigan council for arts and cultural affairs

Tribefest a hit with young federation donors, but reaching unaffiliated still a challenge

By Sue Fishkoff

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (JTA)—"Connect, explore and celebrate" was the tagline for Tribefest 2011 held last month in this desert gambling town.

Drumming imagery aside, the new name for what was a re-branded annual convention of the Young Leadership Division of the Jewish Federations of North America accurately described the spirited atmosphere at the confab.

More than 1,200 Jews in their 20s and 30s turned out for three days of lectures, workshops and performances on everything from new trends in Jewish art to the 2012 elections to the etiquette of offering a "*L'chaim*!"

The federations apparently were doing something right: People were trying to sneak into the convention rather than sneak out.

Federation officials say Tribefest is the first step in a new outreach strategy for the national federation system. Instead of targeting Jews aged 25 to 45 who already donate to federation campaigns—a tactic tried by previous Young Leadership conferences—Tribefest offered an open invitation to any young Jew who wanted, according to the marketing brochure, to be "entertained and educated" about Israel and the Jewish community, affiliated or unaffiliated.

"In the past it was about getting young leaders more engaged," said Jewish Federations spokesman Joe Berkofsky. "This is about consciousness raising, bringing more people into the fold."

Of course, he added, "We hope in the long term they'll want to learn more about federation. But this is not about hitting up people for money. We're not preaching to the converted."

But if one of Tribefest's central aims was about reaching a whole new audience, an informal survey of participants revealed the challenges of achieving that goal. Eleven of the 12 attendees interviewed by JTA reported that they already are active members and donors in their local federations.

Ann Arborites Josh Bloom (far right) and Andy Ruddick (second from right) at Tribefest with members of the Detroit Federation.

"If you're unaffiliated, why would you shlep all the way out to Vegas for this?" said Dan Sieradski, digital strategist for Repair the World.

"The scene is different, and there's a lot more security," said George Faber, 39, of Baltimore, who said this was his ninth Young Leadership conference.

But the people?

"Pretty much the same," he said.

Not that it's a bad thing, those interviewed pointed out.

They came to Tribefest to learn how to get even more involved more effectively—in federation as well as the other Jewish organizations represented. The Jewish Federations partnered for the conference with about 40 Jewish organizations popular among younger Jews, from Israel-oriented groups such as the New Israel Fund to the food justice organization Hazon to smaller groups focused on music, art and social service.

Hal Greenblatt, 26, and his friend Marc Prine, 25, both of Philadelphia, were part of the Jewish fraternity AEPi at Temple University and now are active in their local federation's Young Leadership Division. Though this was their first time at a national conference, both said they didn't need any convincing to make them fans of the federation system.

More than 1,200 Jews in their 20s and 30s turned out for three days of lectures, workshops and performances on everything from new trends in Jewish art to the 2012 elections to the etiquette of offering a "L'chaim!"

"There are many different ways to get your interests met in federation—cultural, social service, religious," said Prine, who like Greenblatt enjoys social service work and has raised funds for various Jewish causes.

"My dad is a Holocaust survivor, and I grew up doing social service. I want to give that to my kids," he said. "If we're not going to build the next generation of the Jewish community, who will?"

Some of the presenters at Tribefest didn't seem to grasp that the conference participants were not disaffected from the Jewish establishment. At a session Monday titled "Reconnecting Young Adult Jewish-Americans to Israel," the panelists spent an hour apologizing for what they deemed as Israel's bad behavior to a room full of young Israel supporters who seemed bewildered by the message.

"Unlike our parents, who saw Israel as a source of pride, many in our generation see it as a source of shame and disillusionment," said Israeli army veteran Yoav Schaefer, executive director of the Avi Schaefer Fund, which advocates for strong Diaspora support for Israel while recognizing the rights of the Palestinians.

"I'm a Zionist, pure and simple, despite what I've heard from this panel," responded one audience member.

Despite their already firm connection to federation, many attendees said they appreciated the direction the conference had taken and learned a lot from the sessions.

Prine and Greenblatt particularly enjoyed a session on punk Jews.

"We have friends with Jewish tattoos, friends who are black Jews, and they are shunned by the mainstream," Prine said. "It doesn't matter how you want to show your Jewishness. If it means getting tattoos or wearing *tzitzis*, it's all about passing the flame to the next generation."

While Tribefest may not have drawn as many newcomers as organizers may have liked, it seemed to have hit the mark for its core audience—those already involved with federation and committed to Jewish community.

"As a Jewish professional, it got me re-energized and ready to go home and engage new people, and that's what it's supposed to do," said Staci Weininger, 37, communications director of the Marcus Jewish Community Center in Atlanta.

Weininger noted that some of the 23 delegates from Atlanta weren't in her federation database.

The lone newbie JTA interviewed, Debbie Zaidman, 38, of Columbia, S.C., said she found out about the conference from a friend's posting on Facebook and suspected it "would be something that would inspire me."

Zaidman grew up in a small Southern town with no Jewish community to speak of. Her mother drove her an hour each way to religious school until her confirmation at 16.

"In high school I always felt like an outsider," she said.

Now Zaidman is part of a young Jewish professionals group in Columbia that regularly draws 100 people to events.

"It helps me be inspired," she said. "Now I embrace my Judaism. I love it." ■

Reflections on Tribefest

By Josh Bloom

The key takeaway from Tribefest is that young Jewish adults in America are interacting with being Jewish in a diversity of ways. Young Jews are volunteering through "Avodah" (work) at non-profits across the country, learning about Israel and seeking internship opportunities through organizations like Tamid, or starting their own organizations like Immerman Angels, which is a support network that pairs people going through cancer with a survivor of that specific type of cancer. It was great to spend a weekend socializing and networking with other Jews from around the country, and to learn about all of the interesting organizations that exist or are sprouting up to help make the Jewish community that much more dynamic.

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Making connections: JCLP visits Detroit area agencies

Liz Kohn, special to the WJN

Maintaining communal and personal connectedness is a challenge for the ages. Today, the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan feels confident that a bright, fulfilling and compelling Jewish future lies ahead. JCLP is one of a few programs in the country training future leaders in this context by encouraging its students to look within while immersed in the modern communal environment. Last month, JCLP continued their immersion in Jewish life with an in-depth meeting with the leadership of Jewish Family Service of Ann Arbor, a behind the scenes tour of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, a visit to the Frankel Jewish Academy, and meetings with program alumni and the leadership staff of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

The group spent a busy day visiting some of the major Jewish communal institutions of Metro Detroit. The visit to the JCC in West Bloomfield included an opportunity for JCLP student and opera singer Sara Shvartzman to inaugurate the new Berman stage while it was still under construction. The YouTube video of her performance in a hard hat has already gone viral.

JCLP with Project STaR and Drachler Program alumni

Project STaR and Drachler Program alums Jennifer Noparstak, Miriam Starkman, Jeff Lazor, Kari Alterman, and Julie Zuckerman Tepperman joined JCLP for kosher chicken salad and gluten-free cookies, and to share their experiences and perspectives on Jewish communal work. The JCLP students then met with nine members of the Detroit Federation team, including Rachel Lachover, program director of a new Federation department called CommunityNEXT.

Lachover discussed the beginnings of CommunityNEXT in 2010 as a reaction to young adults leaving Detroit and the negative pent up energy surrounding this. CommunityNEXT takes cultural, social, and professional approaches to facing this challenge; for example, ComePlayDetroit, which, said Lachover, "was founded to create unique and active social experiences in Metro Detroit. The founders were tired of the same old song, 'There is nothing fun to do in Detroit,' so we are doing something about it!"

JCLP looks forward to more conversations and collaborations with the broader community in the future, and as the summer draws near, is preparing for placements with Jewish agencies locally, nationally, and internationally, from Detroit to Buenos Aires. ■

Liz Kohn is a student in the University of Michigan School of Social Work/Jewish Communal Leadership Program.

Brandeis Hillel excludes a controversial group on Israel, generating debate

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Hillel may be the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, but that doesn't mean every Jewish student group is welcome.

Last month, Brandeis University's Hillel voted not to accept the membership bid of the local campus chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, an organization that has been criticized for its support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign targeting Israel and was listed by the Anti-Defamation League last October as among the top 10 anti-Israel groups in the United States.

"While we understand that JVP at Brandeis considers itself a pro-Israel club, based on positions and programming JVP has sponsored, we do not believe that JVP can be included under Hillel's umbrella," Brandeis senior Andrea Wexler, the president of the 11-member Hillel student executive board that rejected the application of Jewish Voice for Peace, wrote in a letter explaining the board's decision.

Wexler said the group's words and actions put it beyond what is acceptable to Hillel.

Fellow Brandeis senior Lev Hirschhorn, who presented JVP's case to the Hillel board, said Hillel should not exclude any Jewish student group.

"As members of the Brandeis Jewish community, we wanted Jewish Voice for Peace to be included at the Jewish communal table," he said.

The battle at Brandeis over JVP is part of the growing, heated debate in the American Jewish community over what constitutes acceptable criticism of Israel.

Last summer, a furor erupted in San Francisco over Jewish federation funding for a Jewish film festival that screened a film about pro-Palestinian activist Rachel Corrie. For the past three years, the "pro-Israel, pro-peace" lobbying group J Street has stirred passions on both sides of the divide for its calls for increased U.S. pressure on Israel to deal with the Palestinians. This month, Israel's Knesset decided to investigate J Street.

At Brandeis, the organization's college chapter, called J Street U, blasted Hillel's decision on Jewish Voice for Peace.

"While J Street U and JVP strongly disagree about many issues related to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the BDS movement, we nonetheless believe that they should be a part of the Jewish communal conversation," J Street U said, using the acronym for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

Unlike J Street, Jewish Voice for Peace does not describe itself as pro-Israel. That and JVP's support for the BDS movement were critical to Hillel's decision, Wexler said. The decision, she added, was "very difficult" and not unanimous.

"According to the pro-Israel guidelines given to us, which we support and agree with, we didn't feel they fit into what we consider a Hillel member group," Wexler said of JVP.

The membership guidelines to which Wexler referred were released by Hillel's international body last December. The guidelines reiterate Hillel's support for Israel as a "Jewish and democratic state," and say Hillel "will not partner with, house or host" groups or speakers that do not agree with that statement, including those that support the BDS campaign.

Hirschhorn says the Brandeis chapter of JVP only supports boycotting goods produced in Gaza and the West Bank, not Israel proper, so it should not be considered anti-Israel.

"We know what the national guidelines say, but we also know Brandeis is an open, welcoming community," he said.

Wexler said the campus JVP chapter cannot be considered apart from positions taken by its national organization, which held its national membership conference over the weekend in Philadelphia.

Wayne Firestone, Hillel's president and the main author of the new membership guidelines, says that any organization, including Hillel, has the right to define its limits.

"We do not feel we can be true to our values and partner with groups that deny Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state," he said.

Firestone noted that the guidelines also would exclude right-wing student organizations that do not support Israel as a democratic state, although no such groups have applied to Hillel since the regulations were put in place.

The Brandeis chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, which was created last fall, was the first JVP chapter nationwide to apply for Hillel membership. The organization, which began in the San Francisco area, also has chapters at the University of California, San Diego, the University of Arizona, St. Lawrence University and Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. It is organizing on six more campuses, according to a spokesperson.

Adam Lerner, a sophomore at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where JVP is organizing, says Hillel, which has the stated goal of providing a safe space for students to explore their Jewish identity, should not set a political litmus test for who is in and who is out.

"If Hillel promotes itself as 'the' center for Jewish life on campus, they need to have as pluralistic a voice as possible," Lerner said. "If Israel is open to all Jews, then Hillel should be open to all Jewish groups on campus. They should take the model they're promoting for the Jewish state and apply it to themselves."

Jonathan Horovitz, a sophomore at the University of California, Berkeley, says the issue isn't Hillel banning a particular opinion but choosing not to partner with an organization that is disruptive and uncivil. He noted that JVP supporters have heckled pro-Israel speakers, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the group aligns with organizations such as Students for Justice in Palestine and the International Solidarity Movement.

"The actions of JVP and their guests abuse the openness offered by the mainstream Jewish community by responding with hostility," Horovitz said. "A group that hosts such events and welcomes such disrespectful jeering should not be allowed in the Jewish community."

Firestone says all students are welcome at Hillel as individuals, no matter their organizational affiliations. But "that's different from co-sponsoring with an organization that does harm to our central values," he said.

Ben Sales, editor of *New Voices*, an online publication serving the American Jewish student community, says this position is disingenuous.

"If Hillel wants to be the Israel advocacy organization on campus that also provides a wealth of other programming for Jewish students, that's fine," Sales said, "but then it's inaccurate to call itself the center for Jewish life while excluding a group of Jewish students who do not support Israel as a Jewish and democratic state but who are not violent or discriminatory, and who ground their positions in Jewish values."

It turns out the debate about the Brandeis Hillel decision is much more heated off-campus than on it; both Hirschhorn and Wexler say there is no hostility between their groups.

"I study Hebrew with a lot of them," Hirschhorn said of the Hillel board members. "They made sure we understood this isn't a personal thing." Wexler added that after the meeting, several of the students became "friends" with each other on Facebook.

"We encourage these conversations," said Larry Sternberg, executive director of the Hillel at Brandeis. "This whole thing reflects the fact that there are such conversations taking place. And the fact that JVP wants to be part of Hillel is a good thing." ■

On the road with Rabbi Levy

At the time of this writing, Rabbi Bob Levy has cycled through Florida and is in Georgia. Here are some snippets from his daily blog, www.thejewishpedaler.blogspot.com.

Proof of goodness, February 9

The last two days have been beautiful but hard. Yesterday I had my seventh flat and I decided that the cause was the weight on skinny tires without the means to keep them inflated at 120 lbs. Maybe I'm wrong but today, with the help of Two Wheel Tango in Ann Arbor, I found Bike Fitters (www.bikefitters.com) in Ponte Verde, Florida.

Rabbi Robert Levy

I was down on myself and Ralph and Kim, the shop owners, built me up. They fixed the bike with strong fatter tires. They did a complete tune up and chain cleaning unasked. They charged me only for the parts minus 10 percent and threw in the gas cartridges I picked up. They are princes. The world is good and kind. And I am ready for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the scenery has been spectacular.

Real food, real people, February 21

This morning I said goodbye to my friend, Peter, and headed back inland and then North into Georgia. The last few days have been some amazing cycling. Glorious vistas. Beautiful homes. Great weather. The place to be, but a bit homogenized with the rest of America.

This morning I'm eating breakfast in the heart of Georgia. The waitress actually sat down in the booth to take my order and asked for a bite of my pancake. This is an orange and green diner called Steffens. This is the south.

On the other hand, my friend Amir, with whom I bike in the summer, called just as I as I was on the bridge that separates Florida and Georgia. Some people hate technology just because of its intrusive nature. I love that I could receive a call from Israel, in the middle of almost nowhere. And the Google mapping app has been my guide.

Halfway to dinner and I'm smiling.

Brunswick, the synagogue, February 25

Last night was all it could have been. Using "Gates of Prayer," I led services for about 80 or so Jews and non-Jewish guests. Really good energy that flowed into today's Shabbat morning Torah study. Judaism means a great deal to the members, not more than it means to my congregation, but with an intensity born out of the knowledge that they are small in numbers and that they represent a long tradition in Brunswick. The building is way old and way beautiful. Painted "stained" glass windows set in beautiful wood. Many windows. Thick pillars of wood hold up the ceiling, which is a complex design of diagonally wood. A high Bima with central lectern.

Lucky me.

Where am I, March 3

Day before yesterday at breakfast the waitress made me a fresh pot of coffee because at 9:30 I was the first person that day who wanted coffee. Today I'm sitting in a coffee house drinking Ethiopian and munching on real New York Crumb Cake, an old favorite.

Am I home? Or just in Thomasville, Georgia. Where I'm sleeping looks like America: fast food and drug stores. Where I'm sitting looks like America's past meets self indulgence: bookstores, boutiques and baked goods, with wine and coffee as chasers. I had lunch at Seminole Winds, a Christian infused cafeteria of down home cooking. I ate, or stuffed myself, in the company of some club of seniors wearing badges and vests.

I stopped a young man in the coffee shop, with whom I talked for fifteen minutes or so, because he was wearing the shirt of a restaurant I wanted to try, called Fish and Grits. He turned out to be the owner of this upscale place and filled me in on the history of Thomasville. It was the most southern place in Georgia before Florida was developed. Big plantations with lots of money; hence, the beginnings of the cool town center. I was upfront explaining who I was and what I was doing. Caleb wanted to know if the ancient Hebrews were black and if the sons of Noah defined the three human racial divisions. (btw Caleb is white) I shared that modern racial issues and weirdness are modern, not biblical nor rabbinic. Surely, I was in Georgia. ■

The synagogue in Brunswick

Organ donation and Jewish law

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

For many years, I have had an "Ask the Rabbi" column on our synagogue website. I have received many serious questions on many different subjects, and I view it as an opportunity to share a perspective on important issues of the day and puzzling Jewish concepts.

This year, I plan to write a series of articles for the *Washtenaw Jewish News* that will delve more deeply into some of the areas I have been asked about. I remind you that these are my personal thoughts on the issues involved and do not reflect what all Jews or all rabbis believe. You should always consult your rabbi with questions of Jewish practice.

One issue that has been the subject of many questions has been the perspective of Jewish law on the issue of organ donation. This is a critical question and one that I have written about extensively in the past.

When this question originally came up a few decades ago, there was an immediate reaction against organ donation from many rabbis as two major issues presented difficulties.

The first issue was the prohibition in Jewish law against defacing a body after death. Jewish tradition dictates that the body be buried without any defacing whatsoever. The only exception would be if a local government mandated an autopsy. Other than that exception, this principle was considered sacrosanct.

Secondly, as transplantation became more advanced and involved major organs, the issue arose as to how one could sanction such an action when, medically, there was a requirement that there still be circulation present in the donor body. The donor could be considered "brain dead," allowing the donation to take place; but in order for some organs to be taken there still had to be circulation, often aided by a respirator. This presented a problem to Jewish law because there is no concept of brain death in Jewish sources. Death comes with the cessation of circulation and respiration. Thus, harvesting the organs while there was still circulation and respiration would be considered murder.

As transplantation became more common and more successful and as the need for organs increased, many rabbis from all different perspectives on Jewish law began to take a look at these issues again; and most rabbis have ruled, and with this I agree 100 percent, that the opportunity for saving a life presented by modern medicine overrides concern for either of the two issues above. Since *pikkuach nefesh*, saving a life, is so critical in Jewish thinking, how could we allow these two concepts, as important as they may be, to stand in the way of participating in the mitzvah of being an organ donor?

Some rabbis found ways to re-interpret the texts so that these issues were understood in different ways. Others chose merely to ignore them in deference to saving a life. But one way or the other, most rabbis today would consider being an organ donor to be a great act of kindness and commitment to life.

However, one more question arose. If in fact we are commanded to act in ways that save lives, can we consider registering as an organ donor to be a mitzvah, an obligation, a commandment? Is a person who does not agree to be a potential organ donor breaking Jewish law? This is a difficult question because, if we consider it a mitzvah, then we are adding to the body of commandments incumbent upon an individual and that is a very serious step indeed.

Despite a hesitation to create new commandments, I believe that we should treat this as a sacred obligation. I believe that it is absolutely incumbent upon us to sign the permission for organs to be taken for transplantation if, God forbid, the situation arose. The same holds true for the critical areas of tissue donation (corneas, heart valves, ligaments, bone, and skin) and for cell donation, which are as vital in many ways as organ donation.

I understand that it might take some time for people who remember the days when Jewish law frowned on this practice to feel entirely comfortable with it. But I think we must actively and passionately teach our community that this is the "Jewish way".

It should be noted as well that respect for Jewish burial traditions should go hand in hand with the willingness to have organs donated. It is for this reason that I do not believe that donating one's body to science is proper according to Jewish law. The body should be buried appropriately with the proper *tahara*, ritual purification of the body, and the burial should take place as soon as is reasonably possible. Neither of these should be an issue after one has posthumously performed the mitzah of *pikkuach nefesh* by donating organs for transplantation.

I strongly urge you to consider this issue and hope that you are or will be among the millions who have agreed to be a potential organ donor should, God forbid, the situation arise. Saving a life is a mitzvah in Jewish tradition, and this is one way we can all embrace that obligation. ■

Beth Israel Congregation April activities

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Passover College

Sunday, April 3, 7–9 p.m.

Passover College offers adults various courses in two class periods on all aspects of the upcoming holiday. Courses include "Passover Gourmet," led by Marcie Greenfield, with ideas for creative dishes to prepare throughout the week of Passover. "Intro to the Seder," facilitated by Gabe Pachter, will explore the various parts of the seder, the rituals it contains, and their meaning. This class is particularly useful for individuals who are looking for an introduction to the seder, who are hosting their first seder, or looking for a refresher experience. "Innovative Ideas for the Seasoned Seder," led by Ron and Lonnie Sussman, will offer new ways to bring meaning and fun for adults and teens to a traditional seder experience. During the second part of the evening, "*Mah Nishtanah Halayla Hazeh Mikol Halaylot*"—"How Different This Night is From All Other Nights," will be taught by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Dobrusin concludes his Favorite Torah Lessons Series at Passover College. He will explain the two words in the phrase from the Haggada, which is the title of this session, that everyone has taken for granted all these years, Also during the second part of the evening, Ron and Lonnie Sussman will present "Songs of Freedom," a medley of old and new songs which are fun for adults, children, and everyone present at the Seder. Participants will have time to share their own melodies as well.

During the break between the sessions a *charoset* bar will offer the opportunity to try delicious varieties from around the world. There is no charge for the evening.

Davening workshops

Sunday, April 3, 10, and 24, 9–10 a.m.

Beth Israel Men's club is sponsoring these sessions for men and women to learn how to lead the prayer services.

Passover morning services

April 19, 20 25 and 26, 9:30 a.m.–noon

Passover morning services are held in the Beth Israel Sanctuary on the first two and last two days of Passover, April 5 and April 6. All services begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at noon, followed by a light kiddush of Passover sweets. Mincha and Maariv services vary on Passover. The Beth Israel website at www.bethisrael-aa.org may be referred to for the latest information.

Wednesday Lunch and Learn sessions

April 6, 13, and 27, noon–1:15 p.m.

These sessions, facilitated by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, or Rabbi Kim Blumenthal, take place at the Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw Avenue). Participants are asked to bring a dairy lunch with refreshments and desserts being provided free of charge by the congregation.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturday, April 23, 9–9:50 a.m.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin will lead a discussion of Jewish texts in the Beth Israel adult library. Participants may join the Shabbat morning service at the conclusion of the study session.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, April 9, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is a special Saturday morning service for parents and their children 2–5 years old that includes songs, stories, and prayers. This program is run by Peretz Hirshbein (Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor Early Childhood Center assistant director) on the second Saturday of each month, with the mysterious "Shabbat Box," fun songs, Torah processions with stuffed Torah toys, and a kiddush for tots. Preschool-sized tables are set up for the regular kiddush so that families may easily attend with their children following Tot Shabbat. There is no charge for this monthly program. (Due to Passover, Tot Shabbat will only meet once in April.)

Mini Minyan for K–2nd graders

Saturday April 9, 11 a.m.

The Mini Minyan is a program offered on the second Saturday morning of each month and it serves as a bridge between Tot Shabbat which is aimed at preschool children and their parents, and Kehillat Shabbat which is intended for 3rd–5th graders. Mini Minyan features many of the same songs and stories enjoyed during Tot Shabbat, while also offering the chance for children to learn and explore many of the Shabbat morning prayers through age-appropriate activities. The Mini Minyan service is led by program director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers.

Kehillat Shabbat

Saturday, April 9, 11 a.m.

A Saturday morning program for K–5th graders that includes a special morning service to celebrate, to schmooze and to learn, led by Gabe Pachter.

New members in April enjoy 15 months of membership

Individuals and families who join Beth Israel in April for the 2011–2012 membership year have 15 months of membership, including the 2011 High Holidays. (The typical membership year is July 1–June 30). In addition, $300 membership dues are available for new members under the age of 35, for the first year, including High Holiday tickets. For further information, call 665-9898.

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April events at Temple Beth Emeth

Brett Willner, special to the WJN

Women's Torah Study

Monday, April 4, 7–8:30 p.m.

Cantor Annie Rose leads a Women's Torah Study at Temple Beth Emeth. The Women of Reform Judaism Women's Commentary has become a major source of insight for those studying Torah in depth or simply reading the weekly parsha, portion. This month the Women's Torah group will be studying M'tzora. The class will only be held once this month due to Passover.

Anat Hoffman Lecture

Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.

TBE will be hosting Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC). A former Jerusalem city councilwomen, Hoffman has guided IRAC, since 2002, in its work to promote Jewish pluralism, tolerance, and equality and to combat racism, corruption and religious coercion in Israel. The evening will include a discussion with Anat Hoffman at 7 p.m. followed by dessert and a viewing of *Praying in Her Own Voice*. RSVP to the Temple office, 665-4744 or RSVP@templebethemeth.org. This program is sponsored by the Sidney Davidson Fund at Temple Beth Emeth.

TNT: Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 6, 6 p.m.

TBE 20s and 30s will meet for Shabbat Dinner at Sava's, 214 South State Street. Couples and singles are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, contact Brett Willner, bwillner@templebethemeth.org or call the Temple office, 665-4744.

Spirituality Book Club

Thursday April 7, noon–1:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Spirituality Book Club will be reading *Speaking of Faith,* by Krista Tippett, in April. Analysis of texts and group discussion provide lively sessions each month. Participants are welcome to drop in for selected sessions or the entire series through June. Visit the TBE website, www.templebethemeth.org, for the book list for the year. Contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com with questions.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Sunday, April 10, 1 –3 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth sponsors a hiking group for the Jewish community, led by Eli Avney. Hikes are monthly at 1 p.m. in the spring and fall, and at 11 a.m. in the summer. These hikes are full of beautiful nature reserves, social interaction, and light physical activity. Hikes are open to all ages, with no experience necessary. It is recommended to bring a small bag with water and snacks. The hikes last between 1 1/2 to 2 hours. No pets are allowed. For more information or to be added to Jewish Hikers of Michigan's email list, contact Eli Avny, 883-9522 or jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Movie Tuesday: Sixty Six

Tuesday, April 12, 1–3 p.m.

This month's free movie is *Sixty Six*. The movie is a quirky coming of age story of Bernie, a young boy seeking to overcome the awkwardness of pre-adolescence by having the perfect bar mitzvah. Join other movie enthusiasts for this afternoon movie and discussion. Snacks are provided and everyone is welcome.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesday, April 13 and 27, 7:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Men's Torah study meets twice a month for an evening of learning. Refreshments served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net.

Second Night Seder

Tuesday, April 19, 6 p.m.

TBE will host an annual Second night community Passover Seder. Dinner will include roasted chicken or vegetarian stuffed portabella mushroom, sides, and traditional Passover items. The Seder will cost $18 (11 years old and up), $15 (4-10 years old), and is free for children under 4 years old. RSVP by April 1, to the Temple office, 665-4744.

TNT: Second Night Passover Seder– Twenties and Thirties Table

Tuesday, April 19, 6 p.m.

Twenties and Thirties in Ann Arbor if you need a place to spend the second night of Passover, join the Temple Beth Emeth Community Seder. There will be a table set aside for 20 and 30 year olds. Dinner is $18. Visit templebethemeth.org for more information and to sign up.

Families with Young Children Passover Crafts during Tot Dinner

Friday, April 22, 6 p.m.

During Tot Shabbat Dinner on April 22 there will be a Passover crafts table. The Tot Shabbat Dinner is $5 and attendees can pay at the dinner.

continued on page 12

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The meaning of freedom

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

In every generation a person is obligated to view himself as if he went out of Egypt today."—The Haggadah

As we know, the holiday of Pesach has various names: Passover, Holiday of Matzot, the time of our freedom, and others.

We find in the silent prayer, the Amidah, the reference to the holiday as "the time of our freedom." The Torah is reminding us that we went out of bondage to freedom. Also, as Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi tells us, in the book of *Tanya*, that in every generation, and even every day, a person has to view him or herself as if he or she went out from Egypt today. This means that it is the obligation of a Jew to constantly go out to freedom.

When we are speaking about freedom, we are speaking about going out of bondage. In the case of our exodus from Egypt, it initially appears that we are we're going from one bondage to another bondage. God took us from being slaves to Pharoah in order that we should be slaves to Hashem. As the verse in Exodus (3: 12) says " God is taking you out of Egypt in order that you should be able to serve Him at Sinai". We can interpret this to mean that before we go out of Egypt we are slaves to Pharaoh, and afterwards we are going to be slaves to Hashem. We're just going from one enslavement to another. So one can ask: Does that mean that Torah and *mitzvot* are just another yoke, another heavy burden on us such that we are again slaves? If that's the case, then where's the freedom? What are we talking about when we speak of "going to freedom" during the holiday of Passover?

To understand this we have to look more deeply into the concept of freedom. What does freedom mean? The truth of the matter is that freedom is a very relative concept. What is freedom for one is not necessarily freedom to another. For example, to use plants as an example, what would be freedom for a plant? When a plant has all of the good conditions it needs to grow: soil, water, air, sunlight, it would be considered living in a condition of freedom. It has everything it needs to fully express its nature.

Now, what if you take these same conditions and offer them to an animal? For an animal it's not enough to provide only the basic conditions that a plant requires —food, water, air, sun and tied down to the ground. The animal also needs freedom of movement and social interaction to be considered free and fully able to express its nature.

Continuing up the scale of increasing complexity of organisms, what is considered freedom for an animal is not necessarily sufficient for a human being. When we are speaking about a person, even if we provide for all the physical needs (food, water, air, sun) all the freedom of motion and social interaction as an animal would have, if the spiritual nutrients are lacking– for example, intellect and understanding, the person is just walking around eating and interacting. For humans, this would be considered a tremendous form of bondage. Therefore, what is considered freedom for Man is that a person should be able to use their intellect to understand things and to progress in their intellectual development.

Now we're going to continue on with a higher level of freedom. Even if a person has the freedom to eat, move around and use their intellect it's not always enough. This is particularly true for a Jew. A Jew possesses a Godly soul. The Godly soul is a part of Hashem. Even when a soul is in a physical body it is still connected to Hashem, so for a Godly soul what would be considered freedom is that it can study Torah and performs *mitzvot*. Therefore, the rabbis tell us, there is no greater freedom a person has than to study Torah. Because for a Jew, Torah is like water for a fish—it's not considered a yoke, it's considered life. Just as a fish can only reach its fullest potential in water, so it is with a Jew and Torah. Only when one studies Torah and performs *mitzvot*, which is the true source of life, for Torah is our life, can one's Godly soul develop to its fullest potential. Because Torah is our life, that is how a Jew can attain true freedom.

So this is what we are saying about Pesach being a time of our freedom. We are not going from one bondage into another bondage as we mentioned earlier. That's not bondage, it's freedom in the sense that one is free to choose. A Jew in Egypt wasn't free to serve Hashem. They were subjugated to Pharaoh, and when they left Egypt, then they were able to choose to serve Hashem and do Hashem's will.

And this is the way Hashem created us, that Hashem gave every Jew this obligation to fulfill Torah and *mitzvot*. Not in the form of forcing us or imposing on us or enslaving us to do Torah mitzvot. On the contrary, this is what a Jew is all about—that is to willingly serve Hashem. As the Talmud says, at the end of tractate Kedushin, "I was created to serve Hashem." So this is what we are, who we are and if we can do what is expected of us then we can attain the greatest level of freedom. This is the meaning of true freedom, that you can express yourself for what and who you are. For the essence of a Jew is that the *neshama* is the Godly soul. So what is true freedom? When you can serve and cleave yourself to Hashem through Torah and *mitzvot*. Though to a person observing from the outside, a Jewish lifestyle might seem like a burdensome yoke, but for a Jew this is his life and his true freedom.

So, God willing, we all should use the freedom God has given us with Torah and *mitzvot* not only at this Pesach, but throughout the whole year. ■

TBE events, continued from page 11

Shabbat Torah Study with Rabbi Aaron

Saturday, April 23, 8:50 a.m.

Rabbi David Aaron, a professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, is a visiting scholar with the University of Michigan's Frankel Center. Everyone is welcome to these monthly Torah study sessions. For more information, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Beginning Adult Hebrew

Tuesday April 26 through May 31, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

$80 for Members; $100 for non-Members

Temple Beth Emeth will be offering a six session Beginning Adult Hebrew class this Spring. Adult Hebrew classes are ongoing classes throughout the year in cooperation with Beth Israel Congregation. Those who have ever wanted to learn the basics, including reading the letters of modern or biblical Hebrew will find this class is perfect. For more information, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson, ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Continuing Adult Hebrew

Thursday, April 28 through June 2, 6:15–7:15 p.m.

$80 for Members; $100 for non-Members

Temple Beth Emeth will be offering a six session Continuing Adult Hebrew class this Spring. Adult Hebrew classes are ongoing classes throughout the year in cooperation with Beth Israel Congregation. This class is perfect for anyone who has completed Beginning Hebrew. For more information, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson, ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Grief Support Group

A Grief Support Group is forming at Temple Beth Emeth. It will be moderated by a trained professional. If you are interested, contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744. ■

Spring greening: Reconnecting to Passover's roots

By Leah Koenig

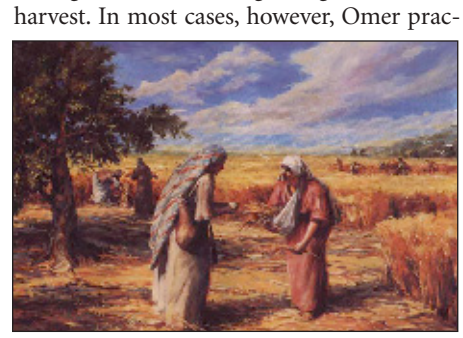
NEW YORK (MyJewishLearning)—One of the dirty little secrets about the Jewish calendar is that many of the holidays have agricultural subtexts, which over time have been muted or lost completely under the historical and religious themes that were layered on top of them.

Two of these holidays, Sukkot and Shavuot, have maintained a relatively transparent relationship to their earthy roots. But finding the natural themes of Passover takes a bit more digging.

The first step is to forget about Moses—for now, anyway—and recall that Passover, also known as *Hag Ha-Aviv* (holiday of spring), is one of the Torah's three mandated pilgrimage festivals. It is inextricably linked to the beginning of the barley harvest in Israel.

Leviticus 23:10-11 describes the *omer* (sheaf) offering of barley (the first grain to ripen in the spring) that took place in the Temple on the second day of Passover: "When you enter the land that I am giving to you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest. He shall elevate the sheaf before the Lord for acceptance on your behalf."

This priestly grain dance symbolized prosperity and was the official green light that the season's harvest could be consumed. Jews today count the Omer for 49 days, starting on the second night of Passover—to coincide with the date of the omer offering—and continuing through Shavuot, the beginning of the wheat harvest. In most cases, however, Omer practices have been nearly disembodied, stripped of their connections to grain and ground.



Contemporary Jews are, of course, forbidden to bring sheaves of just-picked barley, which is *chametz*, to our seder tables. Still, if one is willing to look, signs of spring and nature's rejuvenation abound throughout Passover. This is especially true of the seder plate, which weaves together the historical and agricultural in one eating ritual.

The roasted lamb bone (*z'roa*), which commemorates lamb sacrifices made at the Temple, is taken from one of spring's most iconic babies. The green vegetable (*karpas*) sitting next to it that gets dipped in saltwater is a symbol of the first sprouts that peak bravely out of the just-thawed ground in early spring. The roasted egg (*beitzah*) recalls both the sacrifices made at the Temple and also spring's fertility and rebirth.

Even before Passover begins, the act of removing *chametz* from our homes offers other opportunities to connect to the natural world. This period of "Jewish spring cleaning" requires us to shake out our sheets and round up any bread or crumbs hiding in our kitchen cupboards. But removing *chametz* from our homes also can remind us to get rid of the excess "stuff" clogging up our lives—to liberate ourselves from any emotional or spiritual baggage from the year, and send bad habits packing.

It is a perfect time to recycle the stack of junk mail piling up on the desk (and stop more from coming), plant seedlings in the garden, start composting, switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs or volunteer for a cleanup day at a nearby river, beach, forest or park. It also offers a great opportunity to plan ahead in order to avoid the all-too-common overuse of disposable dishware during Passover. As you clean out your kitchen cabinets, stock them with lightweight, recycled dishes and cutlery that store easily and can be reused year after year.

While these actions might seem like a distraction on an otherwise busy pre-Passover to-do list, integrating them into our holiday preparations can imbue our celebration with deeper significance that lasts beyond the holiday.

During Passover, Jews are challenged to remember the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom, and feel as if they went through it themselves. But for those willing to dig even further, the story of Passover is not simply historical. It is rooted to the land, the giddy joys of spring, and to the reminder that after every period of dormancy and every experience of suffering, new life awaits just under the soil. ■

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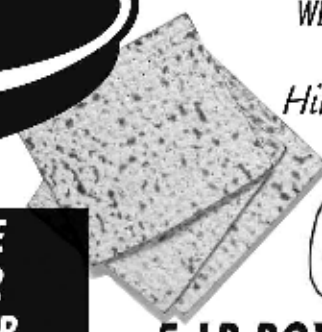

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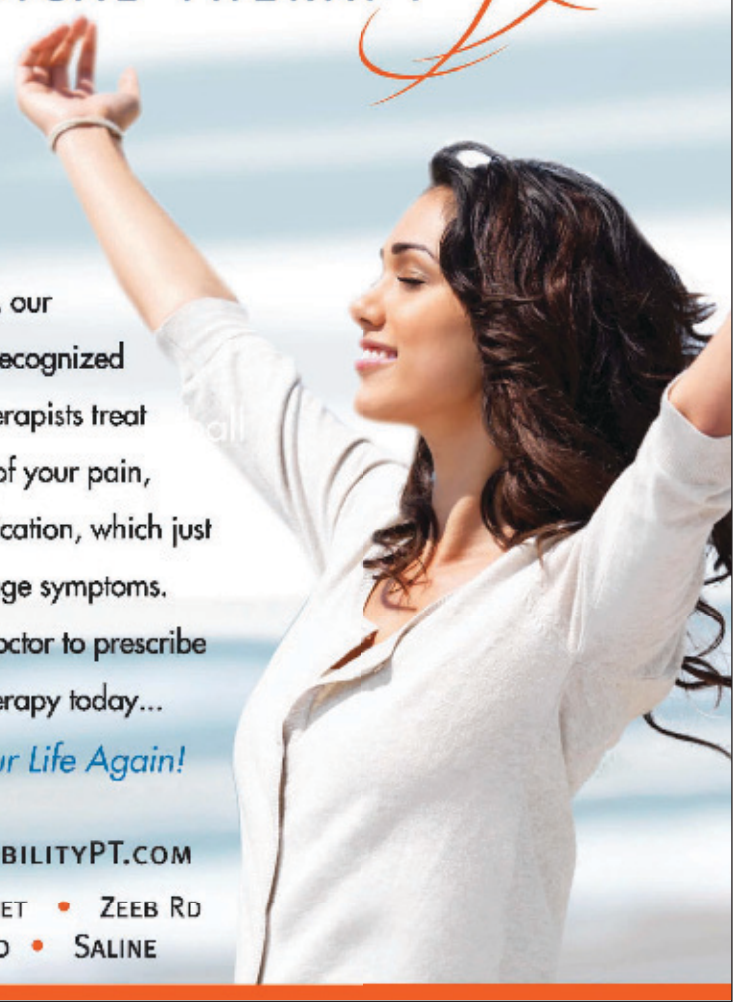

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Ann Arbor teens find a second home in Nahalal, Israel

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

During the recent February school break, 17 local teens decided to forgo ski vacations, trips to Florida or a week relaxing at home in Ann Arbor to embark on a ten-day adventure in Israel. The participants in the second annual Partnership 2000 (P2K) Student Exchange with Moshav Nahalal spent their vacation living with host families, learning the history of Nahalal and the Jezreel Valley, experiencing Israeli high school, and visiting key sites in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Most importantly, they established close relationships with new friends and developed a bond with their "home in Israel."

The group of ninth graders represented four local congregations and four high schools. It included ten teens who had never been to Israel, several who have visited previously, and two who had lived there for short periods of time. Some of the group had had interactions with Nahalal teens because of their participation in recent combined Maccabi Games delegations; for others, it was a completely new, and kind of scary, experience. "When I first heard about the trip, I was so psyched and really wanted to go, but as the dates got closer I got mixed feelings. This was my first time to Israel and my first time out of the country," said Katia Kassof, a freshman at Skyline High School.

Independence Hall: Top: Zoie Palan, Morgan Burgard, Alexa Pinsky, Sari Greifer, Lianna Bernstein, Abby Lauer, Emilie Weisberg

Astrid Kerson and Lipaz Kozminsky say goodbye

The experience of flying to Israel together provided an opportunity to bond, and the group was met at the airport by a group of their counterparts from Nahalal. "When I got there everyone was so welcoming, and everyone connected on the first day!" continued Kassof. "I really loved my first experience of Israel, and I would do it again tomorrow if I could."

Throughout the week, the Ann Arbor and Nahalal teens explored the moshav's fields and history, learned about the concerns facing teens living in a country that continues to experience war, experienced a moving visit to the Kotel (Western Wall) in driving rain, and visited Independence Hall where Israel became a nation. For those new to Israel, the experience of traveling to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with their new friends was especially meaningful. "Everything we did in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv was so amazing. I wish we had more time at both places!" said Sari Griefer, a freshman at Community High School. Molly Mintz, a freshman at Pioneer High School concurred. "I especially loved the Independence Hall, Jaffa, and of course, the Kotel. The Har Herzl cemetery was really meaningful…."

The group also had time for the simple pleasures of teen life. They shopped in markets both new and old, ate ice cream and pizza, and spent lots of quality time at the Machleva, a former dairy that serves as Nahalal's youth center. Nahalal teens prepared a number of programs including a cookout using a poika (an African cooking pot) and an Amazing Race activity. Together, the group helped line the pathways of the Ann Arbor Park at Givat Ha'Shoalim (Fox Hill) and planted trees as a symbol of the partnership between the communities. A highlight of the week for many was the Kabbalat Shabbat service at Nigun Ha'Lev, a congregation based in Nahalal known for its energetic musical services and caring community. A few tears were shed during the warm welcome and uniquely enjoyable Friday night service.

Sacha Moravy-Penchanksy receives his tree planting certificate from Arik Mekler

The Ann Arbor teens had several experiences apart from their hosts, including visits to the English classes at two elementary schools where they played games, listened to presentations about the Jezreel Valley and Michigan, and taught their new young friends to sing "The Victors." They had a chance to learn more about the P2K region during visits to an eco-friendly olive farm and the Elite Chocolate Factory in Nazareth Ilit.

The group had a great deal of difficulty parting; there were many tears and hugs and hopes for seeing one another again. Marley Beaver, a freshman at Skyline High School expressed the views of the group, "I loved how much we bonded with everyone in Nahalal. It really felt like our home in Israel."

The parents shared the enthusiasm of their teens and expressed the strong impact the first half of the exchange had on their children. Renee Pinsky wrote of her daughter, Alexa, a freshman at Skyline, "Alexa had an amazing, life changing trip to Israel… she can't wait to go back to Nahalal." The hospitality of the Nahalal parents was also greatly appreciated by their Ann Arbor counterparts. Kassof's mother, Maureen, wrote, "This was a life-altering event for Katia... she had an amazing time. She came home so connected to our sister city, Nahalal, and to Israel. She's already planning to return! The people of Nahalal were so kind, warm, and loving to our children." David Hamermesh, father of Jonathan, a freshman at Pioneer High School is looking to the future. "We are looking forward to the exchange in the fall, and certainly hope that the program is still going in two years when it's Miriam's turn!"

The Student Exchange is funded by the Federation's P2K allocation. The Ann Arbor/Nahalal Partnership is an integral part of the Michigan/Central Galilee Partnership 2000 program led by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Cooperative programs are developed with communities in Michigan and those of Nazareth Illit, Migdal Ha'Emek and the Regional Council of Emek Yizrael (Jezreel Valley). Developing a closer relationship with Moshav Nahalal, a village in the Jezreel Valley, has allowed members of both communities to learn from and interact more closely with one another. Cheryl Sugerman, Community-to-Community co-chair with Eva Solomon and Yair Hammer, has had nephews participate on the Student Exchange in 2010 and 2011. "I'm so impressed with the impact this program has had on Eli and Alex. They and the other participants have had meaningful experiences and made friendships they will remember for a lifetime. This is what we envisioned when we started this project." ■

A favorite pastime – taking pictures with brides in Jaffa

For more information about the 2011 Student Exchange, to see photos of the trip, or to find out about getting involved, check out the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor facebook page, visit www.jewishannarbor.org, or contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

A very wet visit to the Kotel (Western Wall). (L. to r.) Molly Mintz, Alexa Pinsky, Abby Lauer, Emilie Weisberg, Katia Kassof, Sari Greifer. Alexa is on the phone to her parents who were watching the group on-line on the "KotelCam."

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Hebrew Day School Academic Fair: explorations and expressions

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

Backpack mail and classroom bulletin boards give parents a glimpse of student work. The Hebrew Day School's annual Academic Fair gives parents the panoramic view. On Thursday, February 17, parents were invited to the school to experience the students' wide variety of projects—demonstrations, models, recorded observations, collections, experiments, as well as commercials, interviews, iMovies, and dioramas. "It's always a big production with lots of projects and hard work," says fourth grader Mira Strauss. "There is something that is interesting for every visitor."

Gabe Rosenberg with his compound machine: The Home Plate Sweeper 65

In the area of science, projects reflected earth, life, and physical sciences. One could view life-size models of penguins, watch a student-written public service announcement on the dangers of smoking, read a Hebrew essay about the different parts of the tree, view demonstrations of electrolysis and an electric motor, or set into motion a student-built compound machine using an instruction manual written in both Hebrew and English.

"I built Cereal Pourer 8000," said Daniel Hirshbein. "Using a pulley and a lever, it can prepare a bowl of cereal." Also on display were models of weather instruments and living biomes. "It's cool to show off our work to people who come to see it," says fifth grader Emma Block. "We also get to see what students are doing in other classes. We get ideas and it inspires us," commented fourth grader Corine Burgard.

Daniel Hirshbein with is compound machine: Cereal Pourer 8000

In the area of social studies and history, there were diary entries from the Civil War, a time line of prehistoric animals, stories of American explorers, North American State reports, and a world map for posting where your shirt was made. In math, parents could help their child collect the proper coins to equal a randomly chosen number, or contribute to a graph showing the number of cousins in the family. Computers set up in the classrooms displayed student presentations on many topics, including Teng's mental math and how to multiply fractions and decimals. Projects on display involved measuring ounces and pounds, answering division story problems, and using geometric shapes to make designs.

Writing samples included word webs, sentence strips, self-evaluations, research papers, persuasive speeches, math journals, creative and informative theme-based writing, and original fables, in Hebrew and English, each with its own moral: Team work pays off; Respect needs to be earned; Don't judge a book by its cover. Oral presentations explained the importance of wearing helmets, washing hands, and keeping bones healthy. Interviews in Hebrew took place between students. "The projects showed a little bit about each student's personality," shared fifth grader Arianna Seir. "The fair was a good opportunity to show how hard we worked, and also to show what we have learned," Seir added.

Karen and Jim Berry (right) look at their daughter Sophia's school work. Resource teacher, Caroline Nathans, looks on

HDS student art

An integral part of the Academic Fair was an exhibit of student art called Explorations and Expressions, a title reflecting the focus of the school's art program. The exhibit has also been on display at the JCC. Concepts explored include form, color, shape, line, texture, pattern, dimension, balance, rhythm and contrast. Below is a description of some of the exhibited projects.

Silk Painting—Georgia O'Keeffe's Flowers

Learning about the painted flower studies of American painter Georgia O'Keeffe, fifth graders painted flowers on silk fabric stretched over a hoop frame. They used silk dyes blended directly on the fabric, creating vibrant new colors and varied tones. The students painted water onto the silk to dilute the dyes when they desired a more pastel effect.

Nine Way Design in Black and White

The fourth graders studied line variations (straight, curved, angular, solid, broken, thin, thick, opened, closed), how lines can create illusions and imply or explicitly create shapes, and how directional lines can influence the viewer's eye. They chose nine different squares selected from many sketches, and arranged them to create a balanced, unified whole to the graphic quality of their designs.

Metallic Dragons

Inspired by the book *Matthew's Dragon*, by Susan Cooper, the third grade students created their own fantastic flying dragons which, in many different cultures, resemble different animals ranging from dinosaurs, to lizards, to alligators, or combinations of animals, such as lions and birds. In this

Avi Weingarten looks at his silk flower with teacher Deborah Weintrob

multi-step process, they painting a page with a variety of metallic colored tempera paints, cut out the various parts of their dragons, added texture with black crayon, assembled the parts and glued them onto the night sky.

Patterns on Textile

Second graders looked at the artwork of the Senufo people who are indigenous to the north central area of the Ivory Coast in Africa, and masters of pattern. The children explored the concepts of line variety and pattern in design, and the relationship between figure and ground. Their design motifs were animals, viewed from above or from the side, which they first sketched and then transferred to cloth. The works were finished with a light wash of acrylic paint to simulate the natural dyes the Senufo make from pulverized corn, leaves, and bark.

"The Planets" Oil Pastel Resist

First graders used size variation, color variation, and balanced placement of one shape (the circle) to keep the viewers' eyes moving over the entire picture plane. The students learned how to further the illusion of distant spherical forms by varying the direction of their strokes, overlapping elements, and creating shading through color nuance by layering and blending colors. After completing the oil pastel drawing, the students applied a light watercolor wash, allowing the planets to emerge as the oil resists the water.

Kindergartner Raviv Kaskowitz with his penguin

Colored Paper Collage Animals

In these collages, kindergartners learned to break down complex shapes into familiar, simpler, and easily drawn shapes, by cutting out individual shapes and using them as building blocks to create more complex shapes. ■

For information about the Hebrew Day School and its academic program, contact 971-4633 or visit on the school website, www.hdsaa.org.

New Discovery Hebrew School opening in Ann Arbor this Fall

Brynie Steifel, special to the WJN

A new, child-centered Jewish after-school program will open in Washtenaw County this fall—the Discovery Hebrew School (DHS), sponsored by Ann Arbor Chabad.

"It's really all about discovery," explains the director, Shternie Zwiebel, also director of Camp Gan Israel. "For each child it's their own journey—their exploration of where they come from, and who they can be." With learning by doing a focal part of the center's educational philosophy, children will have the opportunity to explore Jewish festivals, culture and history while being active participants in the preparations and celebrations of each holiday. "Judaism is all about doing—our rich history is relived every time we celebrate a holiday, and we want the children experience that."

This concept lends itself to a varied and hands-on curriculum, dotted with highlights such as the Shofar Factory before Rosh Hashana, and the Olive Press come Chanukah time. "At the Shofar Factory kids get the chance to make their own shofars, giving them a great understanding of what they are and where they come from, and at the Olive Press they will be able to see the process of extracting oil from olives before their very eyes," explains Zwiebel, "It's all about bringing Judaism to life in a way that kids can not only understand on an intellectual level, but on a very sensory and practical one."

It is these kinds of activities that create lasting memories. "We want graduates to leave with fond memories of their time in DHS," comments Zwiebel, "It's important to us that the children attending have fun and wait all week for their time here." For this reason, DHS staff will be comprised of dedicated, caring teachers committed to making Hebrew school a highlight of each family's week. "We look for teachers that will serve as role-models and believe in what they teach. They must also be welcoming and dedicated to the educational development of every child in attendance."

Designed specifically to fill a gap in the lives of families searching for a place their child can explore his or her Jewish identity in a fun, motivating and welcoming atmosphere, DHS welcomes all Jewish children ages 5–13 living in the area. The curriculum will also include the Aleph Champ program, a Hebrew literacy course inspired by the motivational techniques of Karate. Students will have the ability to graduate from one color-coded level to the next as they progress in their Hebrew reading skills, ensuring that each child is excited and self-motivated to achieve fluency. Classes will take place on Sundays, 9:30 a.m.–noon. For more information, call 995-3276 ext.5. ■

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Ken Pardes spring activities

Matan Naamani, special to the WJN

For Ken Pardes, spring is an exciting time filled with the last *peulot* (activities) of the year. Ken Pardes is the local chapter of the Jewish youth movement Habonim Dror and is associated with Camp Tavor. Ken Pardes is run by *madrichim* (counselors) from Tavor (many are alumni of the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and of religious schools and programs at Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, and the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havura) and is a community of Jewish youths and families from around the Ann Arbor area. Ken Pardes meets regularly to celebrate Shabbat and holidays and to run other educational and community activities.

Ken Pardes sponsored many exciting *peulot* this year, including a memorial to Yitzhak Rabin in which participants discussed the legacy of Rabin and values of social justice and partnership; and the annual Winter Olympics, when the ken went sledding and played in the snow together. Upcoming *peulot* will be held on April 17 and May 1, 2–4 p.m. A Ken Pardes farewell family BBQ will be held mid–late May.

Members of Ken Pardes celebrate together in their sukkah

Of course, as the school year draws to a close, many members of Ken Pardes are looking forward to another fun summer at Camp Tavor. Every year, *chanichim* (campers) at Camp Tavor experience a unique Jewish and Zionist education and make relationships that may last a lifetime.

For families and kids who are considering Camp Tavor, Ken Pardes is a great place to meet campers, and counselors from Tavor and to get a taste of the Tavor community. For families who already have kids at Tavor, Ken Pardes is a great place to continue their involvement with Habonim Dror and Tavor.

For questions or more information on Ken Pardes and Camp Tavor, or to join the Ken Pardes email list, contact Matan Naamani at 904-6578, or ken.annarbor@gmail.com. Visit www.camptavor.com for more information. ■

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

April Break Fun Days

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will offer April Break Fun Days from April 4-8 for AAPS and other students. The April Break Fun Days are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Each day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, gym time, and outdoor recess. The cost for each day is $36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Advance registration is required.

School's Out Days

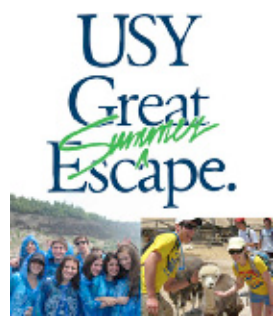
The JCC will offer a full day School's Out Day program on Thursday, April 21 (for HDS and other students) and Friday, April 22 (for HDS, AAPS, and other students). School's Out Day programs are for JCC members ONLY in grades K-5; middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost for each School's Out Day is $36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $10 for Extended Care from 4–6 p.m. Advance registration is required. . ■

For registration forms or more information about JCC youth programs, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Volunteering and adventure programs with USY

Ruth Bobrow, special to the WJN

High school students look for unique ways to spend their summer vacations. United Synagogue Youth (USY) responds by offering new trips for 2011 including volunteering in Israel and a trip to Alaska. USY is the high school affiliate of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.



USY participants now have the opportunity to spend their summer volunteering while experiencing Israel on L'Takayn Olam, USY's newest summer offering. This four-week trip to Israel includes both sightseeing and social action projects on a daily basis. This program is a chance to explore the Jewish homeland and lend a hand to help make it better.

Teens looking for a similar experience here in the states can choose USY on Wheels Mission: Mitzvah. The 45-day volunteer program, now in its 12th season, combines sightseeing and tourism with community service and social action projects.

For those looking for a three-week adventure, USY on Wheels Pacific Northwest has a unique and exciting itinerary. Teens will start off their adventure in Seattle taking in the majestic Mt. Rainier and exploring the beauty of Vancouver, British Columbia. They will then travel to Portland stopping at Crater Lake on the way, before flying up to discover the majesty of Anchorage, Alaska.

Teens looking for a five-week adventure in Israel can choose Israel Adventure Plus. Time is spent living history in Jerusalem, traveling through Haifa, hiking the Galilee, snorkeling in Eilat, and exploring the Negev. The group also spends a week in Gadna, a totally different experience of Israeli army training simulation.

USY offers summer experiences across North America on USY on Wheels and throughout Europe and Israel. Families wishing to explore these exciting new summer program offerings may contact USY at (212) 533-7800 ext 1146 or visit www.usy.org.

JCC/ECC Open House features program with A²SO

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center invites all community members to an Open House on April 28. Arie Lipsky, principal conductor and music director of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra (A²SO), will present a program for all in attendance. A²SO staff will guide children through a musical instrument petting zoo that will get the children up close and personal with the instruments.

The program will take place from 9:30–11:30 a.m. during the regular school day at the ECC. Tours of the center will be available for prospective families, who can visit ECC's classrooms, and meet ECC Director Noreen DeYoung.

The JCC has had a long history of collaboration with the A²SO, serving as the host for the A²SO's Afternoon Delights chamber music series. As the two organizations looked for more ways to work together, A²SO Education and Outreach Director Laura Dunbar and ECC Director Noreen DeYoung realized that parts of the symphony's highly successful family music education program could be brought to the JCC to share with preschool-aged children. The program on April 28 is the first in this new initiative.

For more information about attending this program, or to RSVP, contact ECC Director Noreen DeYoung at noreendeyoung@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

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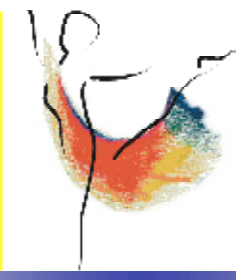

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A sunny day at Camp Raanana

Shoshana Jackson and Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

It's 7:30 a.m. on a lovely summer morning and Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's outdoor day camp for children entering grades K–8, is already in full swing. The sun shines brightly as camper families begin dropping off their campers for Morning Care before the camp day begins. During the next hour, these campers enjoy relaxed activities including crafts, story time, drawing, LEGO building, and board games.

The rest of the campers arrive between 8:45 and 8:55 a.m. and leap excitedly from their parents' cars to join their camper groups in front of the JCC. Campers in Group Adom (entering kindergarteners) tug on the sleeves of their counselors to tell them about what they had for breakfast or about the cool bugs on a nearby tree. Group Katom campers (entering 1st graders) are lucky to be situated across the sidewalk from the Pioneers (6th–8th graders), who are full of stories from their latest adventures rock climbing, visiting museums, playing laser tag, and going speed-boating. Groups Tzahov, Yarok, and Kachol (2nd, 3rd, and 4th-5th graders) are giggling happily as they try to avoid being tagged in a pick-up game of "Fruit Salad."

At 8:55 a.m., Group Kachol leads the line to board the bus since they are the oldest group who will be at camp for the day (the Pioneers are heading out to a videogame arcade in the morning and a water park in the afternoon). When all the campers are loaded at 9 a.m., the bus pulls out of the JCC lot and starts the drive up to Independence Lake Park, stopping briefly to pick up a few campers on the north side of town. The bus ride passes quickly as counselors lead the campers in fun songs including "Baby Shark," "Your Mama Don't Wear No Socks," and "Herman the Worm." It seems only a moment before the bus makes the final turn toward the camp site, and each camp group sings the "Camp Raanana Chant" louder and more enthusiastically than the last to demonstrate their camp spirit as the bus pulls into the camp parking lot.

Campers participating in the Boating specialty.

A camper displays a finished art project

On Camp Raanana's private, sandy beach

Hanging out with friends on the bus

Group Adom leads the way off the bus and the campers put their lunches into coolers and grab their sunscreens from their group bucket. Counselors help all the campers apply sunscreen and then send them off to join the morning Boker Tov song session, featuring energetic Jewish songs to start off the day (the campers' favorite is "Tree of Life"). Once the last campers have joined the song session, the camp director shares an announcement: since today is Thursday, it is Crazy Lunch Day, which means that campers get to sit with their friends or siblings in other groups during lunch. There is a sudden buzz of excitement, which quiets down as the camp director holds up a water bottle that was left on the bus after the field trip to Imagination Station the previous day. The bottle's owner quickly claims it and then all the groups head to their first activity session.

Group Adom skips along in a perfect single-file line to the sports field to learn the finer points of t-ball, while Group Katom trots over to the grove of trees for a nature lesson. Meanwhile, Group Tzahov heads down to the beach for swim lessons, Group Yarok campers crowd around tables to see what the arts and crafts specialist has planned for the day, and Group Kachol meets with the music and culture specialist to learn the words to a new Hebrew song. After 40 minutes, each group switches to a different activity for second period. Group Yarok has a free period today for second period today, so their counselors have prepared a special activity: going into the woods to visit the Bird Tower on a scavenger hunt.

At 11:45 a.m., Group Yarok meets back up with the other groups and all the campers get their lunches from the coolers and find some friends in other groups to sit with for Crazy Lunch Day. The whole camp sings the *Motzi* together and then everyone begins eating. Some campers choose to sit in the shade of the pavilion, while others enjoy a picnic lunch sitting on their towels on the nearby grass. As campers finish their lunches, a new round of sunscreening begins. Next, campers join in another song session, featuring lots of active songs, including the ever popular "Donkey Song."

After some quick announcements, it is time for the third activity period. Groups Adom, Katom, and Tzahov head off to their respective activities, while Group Yarok and Kachol campers (3rd-5th graders) divide into their groups for specialty time. Campers in this age group get to choose between two options each week; this week's options are drama and boating. The boaters are already experts at boating safety, so they quickly grab their lifejackets and oars and get ready for a fun lesson about "swamping a canoe," including how to safely fall out of a canoe and then how to get back in. Meanwhile, the drama campers practice different performance techniques they learned earlier in the week and prepare their skit to present at the all-camp Shabbat celebration on Friday afternoon.

The younger groups finish the third activity period before the specialties for Groups Yarok and Kachol end, so they get a head start on afternoon free swim time. Campers touch up their sunscreen and then leave their towels and shoes on the grassy hill before checking in with a counselor at the Buddy Board and heading onto the beach. As soon as specialty time ends, the two older groups hurry down to the waterfront. The lake is soon full of splashers, rock-hunters, fish-watchers, and Marco Polo-players, and the beach is a veritable city of sand castles. A new camp record is even set—and duly recorded in the camp record book—for "the longest sandcastle moat." The moat was built by a team of campers from three different camper groups, and they quickly disperse to tell their counselors and friends about their new accomplishment.

As free swim time draws to a close, Group Adom gets out of the water to change into dry clothes and pack up their bags. At staggered intervals, Groups Katom and Tzahov follow. Yarok and Kachol campers relish their last few minutes in the water and then head up to change, as well. Meanwhile, counselors-in-training (entering 9th and 10th graders) bustle back and forth, collecting sunscreen buckets, returning lost clothing items, and helping campers pack up their art projects, nature treasures, and personal belongings. Once each camper group is packed up, the campers walk over to sit in the shade of some trees and enjoy a snack of freshly-baked blueberry muffins before heading back to the JCC.

On the bus ride home, some campers chat with their friends about the day's adventures, while others join in another round of silly bus songs. At 3:45 p.m., the bus pulls onto Birch Hollow Drive and the campers begin to chant, "JCC! JCC! JCC!" Group Adom gets off the bus first and then all the campers return to their group area in front of the JCC (the Pioneer campers have already returned from their field trip and have put out the group signs). Several parents are waiting on the sidewalk, talking with each other and setting up play-dates, while others wait in the car-line for counselors to escort the campers to their cars.

At 4 p.m., the campers who are staying for Afternoon Care head inside to enjoy art projects, gym time, outdoor recess on the JCC playground, and other fun activities. Tonight also happens to be one of the two scheduled overnight trips for Pioneer campers, so as the Afternoon Care campers and staff troop into the JCC, the Pioneer campers pack up their sleeping bags and camping gear and head off to Howell Nature Center for a camping adventure. By 6 p.m., the Pioneers have successfully set up their tents and all the campers in Afternoon Care have been picked up, tired but happy after a full and exhilarating camp day. Tomorrow will bring another exciting day, featuring Camp Raanana's celebration of Shabbat.

Pioneer campers on a trip to a water park

The JCC's Camp Raanana day camp serves children entering grades K–8. This year's camp season will run from June 20 to August 19; additional programs are also available from August 22–26. Camp brochures, registration forms, and scholarship applications are available at the JCC and at www.CampRaanana.com. The registration deadline is June 1, but families are encouraged to register in advance to reserve their space and take advantage of savings opportunities. For more information, visit www.CampRaanana.com or contact Camp Director Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990. ■

Jewish camp strengthens Jewish identity

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Hundreds of thousands of Jewish camp alumni—and their parents—have long known that those halcyon weeks spent at Jewish summer camp don't just cement lifelong friendships, they strengthen Jewish identity.

Now they have it in writing.

A new study on the long-term impact of Jewish overnight camp concludes that those who have attended camp are more Jewishly engaged as adults, according to 13 key variables, than those who did not go to camp.

"We finally have a tool that proves Jewish camp works, that it helps create a more vibrant Jewish future," said Jeremy Fingerman, CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, which advocates for more than 155 Jewish nonprofit camps in North America and sponsored the study.

"Camp Works: The long-term impact of Jewish overnight camp" used data from 26 national studies of adult Jewish engagement, including the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Survey, to produce the first statistical look at the effect of Jewish camping on individual as well as communal Jewish identity.

The report shows the most pronounced increase in Jewish engagement in four areas not typically associated with non-Orthodox Jewish behavior. Three of them have to do with Jewish communal identity: Camp alumni are 55 percent more likely than Jewish adults who did not attend camp to say they are "very emotionally attached to Israel"; they are 45 percent more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month; and 30 percent more of them donate to Jewish federations.

This is significant, says lead researcher Steven M. Cohen, director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner, because those three behaviors indicate a certain level of Jewish communal commitment, and it is precisely that communal identification that many Jewish experts fear is most at risk.

"Where camp has had its strongest effect has to do with its creation of an intense, temporary Jewish community," said Cohen.

That communal experience imprints on the individual, he surmised, leading to a greater propensity to view one's self within a larger Jewish social network in adulthood.

The other 10 areas of investigation also revealed increased Jewish engagement among camp alumni, from a 37 percent increase in those who "always/usually" light Shabbat candles to a 5 percent increase in the number of those who "always/usually" light Chanukah candles. These 10 areas are related to an individual sense of Jewish identity.

Camp's impact is more pronounced among non-Orthodox Jews under 49 than their elders, the report notes. That's probably not because more young Jews have gone to camp, Cohen speculates, but because more options are open to Jews today than in previous generations, and fewer of today's American Jews live in a primarily Jewish environment.

"If you're a younger person, you need the intentionality of Jewish camp, or day schools or youth groups, to compensate for the loss of the organic Jewish socialization experience that characterized our parents and grandparents," he said. "It's as if to be Jewish today, you have to be Jewishly educated."

Jewish day schools and youth groups also have a strong impact on Jewish identity, Cohen notes. But similar data studies have not been performed for these two institutions, so the evidence is mainly anecdotal, as it was for camping until now.

"The answer to the question of how do we keep our kids Jewish is not so mysterious," he concluded. "Strong Jewish homes are supplemented by intensive Jewish educational and socializing experiences."

Not surprisingly, Fingerman hopes the report will encourage foundations and philanthropists to open their wallets and increase their financial support for Jewish overnight camps.

"It should also be compelling to local federations looking for the best use of their dollars," said Fingerman, who spent eight summers at Wisconsin's Camp Ramah in the 1970s and now sends his own children to Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire. "Camps are proven programs in building community, not just Jewish identity."

More than 70,000 children and teens attended Jewish overnight camp in 2010. ■

Sowing the seeds of summer fun at the ECC's Camp Keshet

Peretz Hirshbein, special to WJN

At the JCC Early Childhood Center, the teachers and children are already thinking about summer and Camp Keshet, the summer camp program of the ECC. At the ECC preparation for summer begins with planting! Soon, ECC children will plant seedlings, and in late April, the seedlings will go into the thawing ground, thus "sowing the seeds" of the most exciting new development at the ECC's Camp Keshet.

Last summer, children at Camp Keshet harvested (and ate!) over 50 pounds of produce from the ECC garden. On a daily basis children had the opportunity to water and weed the garden; in addition to helping to maintain the garden, almost every new day brought with it some green beans to be picked or some cherry tomatoes to be plucked. Camp Keshet's annual Independence Day picnic featured freshly picked green beans, and a lettuce and tomato salad, all from the garden.

Camp Keshet is an outdoor preschool-aged camp program that moves the entire preschool program outdoors into an "outdoor classroom." Explaining the original reason for moving Camp Keshet outdoors, ECC Director Noreen DeYoung says, "Moving the program outdoors provides the children with an authentic summer camp experience. We felt that it was important for children to experience the many different sights, textures and smells that the outdoors has to offer."

Camp Keshet has provided experiences such as reading with a teacher outdoors, painting in natural sunlight, or building with natural material. Twice-weekly trips to Buhr Pool have been invaluable for helping children become comfortable in the water. But last summer, the addition of a working garden increased the richness of the program even more, as children looked forward to what nature would provide each day.

For more information or to register for Camp Keshet, visit www.jccannarbor.org, call 971-0990, or email campkeshet@jccfed.org.

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Amid rancorous debate, a voice for American Jewry pushes civility

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—When disagreement among American Jews on Israel-related issues runs deep, how does an organization that bills itself as the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community formulate policies and priorities?

By emphasizing civility in public discourse, for starters. That was one of the main areas of focus at last month's annual plenum of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which drew delegates from Jewish community relations councils and national advocacy groups across the United States to talk about American Jewish public policy priorities.

> ***Civility is not avoiding uncomfortable conversations—it's our respect for the dignity of other people and careful listening***

Plenum organizers said the goal was to show that while differences within the Jewish community factions are substantive, particularly when it comes to Israel, it's possible to discuss them without rancor. "Civility is not avoiding uncomfortable conversations—it's our respect for the dignity of other people and careful listening," said Ethan Felson, the JCPA's vice president. That approach led to sessions featuring polar opposites: Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center and a doyen of liberalism, joined James Woolsey, a neoconservative icon and former CIA director, in a discussion on energy independence.

The liveliest session, delegates said, was when Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, founder and president of The Israel Project, faced off against author Peter Beinart, who argued in a controversial essay last year that reflective defense of Israel in the public sphere is alienating Jewish youngsters.

Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to the United States, addressed the widening gap between the Israeli and American Jewish communities. Young Jews in Israel, he said, have more in common with the Druze and Bedouin with whom they serve in the army than with American Jewish college students. Oren said it was critical to overcome what can seem like "unbridgeable schisms" between Israelis and Americans.

"We are united at the heart, a rambunctious, often fractious people," he said. "While the experiences of American Jews have made them more liberal and progressive, impelled by our traumas and our disappointments, Israelis have become somewhat skeptical of peace."

Despite his plea for dialogue, Oren was among those who boycotted the J Street conference last month after a campaign by mainstream and right-wing pro-Israel groups to keep centrist and Israeli figures away from the conference.

In a separate appearance at the JCPA plenum, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), the first Muslim elected to the U.S. Congress and a J Street favorite, told a questioner who urged him to denounce those who describe Israel as an "apartheid" state that such rote statements are besides the point. "We don't need more cheerleaders for both sides," he said. "We need more peacemakers for both sides." The applause for Ellison underscored the continued liberal bearings of a large segment of the Jewish community. So did the warm reception accorded Valerie Jarrett, President Obama's top domestic policy adviser, who revealed in her address that her great-grandfather was Jewish.

Jarrett went out of her way to suggest that tensions over Israel between organized Jewish groups and the Obama administration were overstated.

She referred to the March 1 meeting between Obama and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, saying that the president "made clear that while the region will evolve, some things will never change. Among them is his unshakeable support for Israel's security; his opposition to any effort to delegitimize Israel, or single her out for criticism; and his commitment to achieve a peace that will secure the future for Arabs and Israelis alike." The meeting's participants described the meeting as friendly, but some were rankled by Obama's remark that they and Israeli leaders should "search their souls" about whether Israel is serious about peace.

Most of Jarrett's speech was devoted to the president's domestic agenda and his efforts to push back against plans by the Republican-led House of Representatives to slash spending on education and infrastructure and assisting struggling families. She pitched legislative efforts to close the income gap between men and women. "Now that two-thirds of all families depend on two working parents, when women make less than men for the same work, or when women go into low-paying jobs, it affects the entire family," she said.

Jarrett's message of sustaining the social net resonated with a JCPA agenda that focused, in resolutions and in Hill lobbying, on alleviating poverty. JCPA's seven resolutions hewed more to the Democratic agenda than to Republican goals—unsurprising for a community that still consistently votes Democratic in substantive majorities. A resolution on supporting the elderly poor called for "robust funding" of anti-poverty programs, and one on immigration rejected efforts by some Republican lawmakers to remove "birthright" citizenship from children born here to illegal immigrants.

A measure on peacemaking hewed to the mainstream pro-Israel consensus, blaming the Palestinian leadership for scuttling peace talks by insisting on a settlement freeze and pushing for international recognition of a Palestinian state.

The Reform movement proposed a passage that called on Israel "to meet its obligations under prior agreements" and "avoid actions that do not enhance security"—a reference to expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank—but it was rejected.

Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), the conference's most senior Republican speaker, recognized the community's Democratic tilt in his address Tuesday morning, before delegates lobbied their representatives. Glancing through the JCPA's agenda, Kirk noted that as a moderate Republican he supported much of it, including two initiatives against discrimination against gays.

"I was one of the few Republicans that voted to eliminate the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy," he said, referring to last year's repeal of a law that forced gays in the military to hide their sexual orientation.

That was greeted with applause.

"It appears I will become the lead Republican on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act," he said, referring to a law that would end sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace.

Kirk looked up; more applause. ■

Do congressional hearings on Muslim radicalization leave room for nuance?

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)–Are the congressional hearings on radicalization among American Muslims an instance of McCarthyism, or is the opposition to them political correctness run amok?

Jewish groups may disagree on why, but there appears to be wide consensus that the congressional hearings led by Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.), the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, are off on the wrong foot.

The differences are over whether hearings, which began March 10, are needed at all – and if they are, what they should address. The Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee agree that examining Muslim extremism is a proper issue for Congress, and AJC went a step further by saying that lawmakers should not bend to political pressures.

An AJC official, Yehudit Barsky, director of the organization's division on the Middle East and International Terrorism, submitted written testimony to the hearings, which officially are called "The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and That Community's Response."

In her testimony, Barsky said it was "essential that we all tread carefully so as to avoid rhetoric that smacks of stereotyping members of a particular faith and similarly avoid actions that amount to discrimination against, much less persecution of, members of a faith group based on their identity or beliefs, as opposed to their actions."

In a statement, the ADL echoed that sentiment. "Homegrown Muslim extremists pose a real threat to the United States, but the issue is one that may be difficult to explore seriously in a hearing that has engendered an unfortunate atmosphere of blame and suspicion of the broader American Muslim community," the ADL said. "We need to be careful not to single out an entire community for special scrutiny or suspicion."

The Reform movement called on congressional Democrats to expand the hearings to encompass all forms of terrorism.

The National Jewish Democratic Council and J Street said the hearings are indelibly tainted.

Critics of the hearings say King seeks to smear American Muslims. They note that in the lead-up to the hearings, King said there are "too many mosques" in America. King also has suggested that Muslim leaders do not cooperate with authorities and that the vast majority of clerics are radicalized.

The Republican Jewish Coalition said King was fulfilling his proper mission.

"The hearings have met with strong resistance from the left, but they are critically needed," the RJC said in its newsletter.

King was unrepentant as the hearings began last week. "To combat this threat, moderate leadership must emerge from the Muslim American community," he said.

Yet King failed to invite to the hearings major Muslim American groups, such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations, to defend themselves against charges that they coddle terrorist sympathizers. The council criticized the King hearings as tainting all American Muslims.

But the hearings also did not invite those who maintain that much if not all of the Islamic world has been radicalized.

If anything, the hearings provided an opportunity to hear a range of voices, including both those who praised the American Muslim community's stance against radicalism and parents of American Muslims lured into terrorism. There were also a number of Muslims who have criticized insularism among Muslim Americans.

Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), the first Muslim elected to Congress, testified before the committee. So did Leroy Baca, the Los Angeles County sheriff who praised the Council on American-Islamic Relations as cooperative.

In her testimony, Barsky, who listed recent planned attacks by Muslim extremists on U.S. Jewish targets, cautioned against viewing the hearings as an assault on all Muslims.

"Some Muslim organizations, joined by well-meaning supporters, have reacted to the idea of discussing the threat posed by Islamic extremist terrorists by raising the specter of McCarthyism," Barsky said. "They and others have demanded that any discussion or investigation of this national security threat be broadened to include all extremists in all communities.

"Logic and experience, however, dictate that any meaningful inquiry focus on particular organizations and extremists that currently pose a national security threat."

The Reform movement said the failure to broaden the inquiry unfairly singled out Muslims. "A wide-ranging exploration of radicalism writ-large is necessary, and we would welcome it," Mark Pelavin, the associate director of the movement's Religious Action Center, said in testimony submitted to the committee. "But today's hearing is not that exploration. It is a narrow, myopic investigation into the American Muslim community which unfairly targets one group of citizens in congressional proceedings."

Pelavin joined a Capitol Hill protest that included representatives of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim bodies and described the hearings as "anti-Muslim." Also appearing at that event were a prominent Conservative rabbi, Jack Moline, who has advised the Obama White House, and Marc Schneier, an Orthodox rabbi and co-founder of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Steve Emerson, who heads the Investigative Project on Terrorism, a research organization that has consulted with a number of pro-Israel groups, said the concerns were overblown.

Those involved in terrorism are a tiny sliver of the overall Muslim American population, he wrote in a New York Daily News Op-Ed. But one ought to be able to focus on a very real problem -- homegrown terrorism fueled by Muslim extremism -- without being accused of painting the entire U.S. Muslim population with a broad brush."

Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.), perhaps the most passionately pro-Israel lawmaker in Congress, said in a statement that King's tone mitigated against a sober assessment of domestic Muslim extremism.

"Instead of singling out this particular community for investigation, our focus should remain on the many sources of terrorism and violence that threaten our nation and its residents," she said, noting her concerns about the "tone and substance" of the hearings.

"I ask," she said, "if this hearing were focused on the Jewish community, Japanese community or the African-American community, or any other community, would we not be justifiably outraged?" ■

Murder of West Bank family members spurs protests, new housing approval

By JTA Staff

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Demonstrations in solidarity with settlers and a Cabinet committee's approval for new housing in the West Bank are among the Israeli responses to the suspected terrorist attack that killed five members of a West Bank Jewish family.

An estimated 20,000 people attended Sunday afternoon's funeral at a cemetery in Jerusalem to mourn the deaths of Udi Fogel, 36, and Ruth Fogel, 35, and their children Yoav, 11; Elad, 4; and Hadas, 3 months.

Two sons—Roi, 8, and Yishai, 2—were sleeping in a side bedroom and were spared in the Sabbath eve attack in Itamar on March 11. A daughter, Tamar, 12, returned home at midnight from a youth group program to discover the massacre.

The family had been evacuated from Gush Katif and lived in Ariel before building a home in the northern West Bank, near the Palestinian city of Nablus.

Following the funeral, protesters holding demonstrations across Israel in sympathy with residents of the West Bank blocked junctions, some holding signs reading "We are all settlers" and "Peace isn't signed with blood." One of the largest rallies took place in Tel Aviv near the army's national headquarters. Passing drivers honked in solidarity.

Israeli media quoted Palestinian sources as saying that settlers set five cars on fire in the Hawara village near Itamar and threw stones at Palestinian cars passing near Kedumim. Palestinians also reportedly threw stones at buses returning to the Itamar area from the funeral.

Earlier Sunday, an Israeli Cabinet committee approved the construction of hundreds of housing units in West Bank settlements, reportedly in response to the attack. The vote, after several months of no new construction approval, is for 500 housing units in Gush Etzion, Ma'ale Adumim, Ariel and Kiryat Sefer.

The settlements are believed to be among those that will remain as part of Israel under a peace agreement with the Palestinians. The committee discussed expanding the Itamar settlement or creating a new settlement in memory of the victims, Haaretz reported. The United States, which wants an Israeli freeze on settlement building, reportedly was informed of the decision.

The fringe Al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades of Imad Mughniyeh had claimed responsibility for the attack

Danny Dayan, chairman of the Yesha Council settlers' umbrella group, called the approval of new housing in response to the attack "a small step in the right direction." He said it was "deeply troubling that it requires the murder of children in the arms of their parents to achieve such an objective."

At the funeral, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin said Udi and Ruth Fogel personified devotion to the Zionist vision and were pioneers.

"Your hands held both scythe and book, teachers and settlers whose entire lives were the love of their country and the love they had for their neighbors," Rivlin said. "Build more, live more, more footholds—that is our response to the murderers so that they know—they can't defeat us."

Udi Fogel's brother Motti said that "All the slogans about Torah and settlement, the Land of Israel and the Jewish people try to make us forget the simple and painful truth: You are gone. You are gone and no slogan will bring you back. Above all, this funeral must be a private event. Udi, you are not a symbol or a national event. Your life had a purpose of its own and your horrible death must not make your life into a pawn."

On Sunday, it was clarified that the fringe Al-Aksa Martyrs Brigades of Imad Mughniyeh had claimed responsibility for the attack. The group is named for Mughniyeh, who was Hezbollah's chief of military operations until he was killed by a car bomb in Damascus in 2008. Hezbollah blames Israel's Mossad intelligence agency for the killing.

In Gaza, Hamas officials reportedly handed out candy to residents in celebration of the attack.

Israeli military and police forces were scouring the West Bank Sunday for the murderer or murderers, as well as to prevent revenge attacks by Israeli settlers.

"Israel will not stand by idly after such a despicable murder and will act vigorously to safeguard the lives of the citizens of Israel and punish the murderers," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement released after the Sabbath ended. "I expect the international community to sharply and unequivocally condemn this murder, the murder of children.

Netanyahu also called on the Palestinian leadership, who he said condemned the attacks with "weak and mumbled statements," to "stop the incitement that is conducted on a daily basis in their schools, mosques and the media under their control. The time has come to stop this double-talk in which the Palestinian Authority outwardly talks peace and allows—and sometimes leads—incitement at home."

PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad "firmly" condemned the attack, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

The White House and the Mideast Quartet—the diplomatic grouping of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States that guides the peace process—also condemned the attack, offering their condolences to the victims' family and to the Israeli people.

"There is no possible justification for the killing of parents and children in their home," said the White House statement, which called the attack an act of terrorism.

"Attacks on any civilians are completely unacceptable in any circumstance," the Quartet's statement said. The Quartet also called to "expedite efforts to achieve Israeli-Palestinian and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace."

Volunteers for ZAKA, a search and rescue organization, described the scene shortly after the terror attack as "absolutely horrific."

"We saw toys lying next to pools of blood, Shabbat clothes covered in blood and everywhere the smell of death mixing with the aroma of the Shabbat meal," one volunteer said.

The volunteers said the sights were "among the worst we have ever seen."

Israeli President Shimon Peres said in a statement that the attack "indicates a loss of humanity. There is no religion in the world or any faith that allows these kinds of horrible acts."

Meanwhile, the head of Israel's Government Press Office is demanding an apology from Cable News Network over its coverage of the attack, which avoided describing the incident as a terrorist attack and then placed the words 'terrorist attack' in quotation marks in a headline on its website.

The CNN report said that the Israeli military was searching for an intruder, though the official Israel Defense Forces statement said soldiers were searching for the terrorist. ■

News Analysis: Arab unrest alters power balance in as yet unseen ways

By Uriel Heilman

WASHINGTON (JTA)–They were the devils they knew.Though Israel lives in a dangerous neighborhood, surrounded by countries whose leaders or people wish its destruction, over the years it had adjusted to the status quo, more or less figuring out how to get by while keeping an eye on gradual change. But the sudden upheaval in the region that in a matter of weeks has toppled regimes in Tunisia and Egypt, and threatens autocrats in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain and elsewhere, is forcing Israel to grapple with how to recalibrate for dramatic change.

For the time being, as Israel sits and watches how things play out from Tripoli to Manama, Bahrain, it's not clear exactly how the game will change. "The best answer is we don't know," Ron Pundak, the director of the Peres Center for Peace in Herzliya said at the J Street conference in Washington held in March.

"The biggest change since 1967 is this tsunami rolling across the region whose end results no one really can foresee," said Samuel Lewis, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel who attended the conference. "Something new is happening in the Arab world."

In some places, like Libya, the immediate effects on Israel are minimal. Libyan strongman Muammar Gadhafi's state has had no ties to Israel, so the dictator's demise — if it comes — wouldn't change much for Israelis.

"The civil war raging in Libya poses no immediate cause for concern in Israel," Israeli journalist Avi Issacharoff wrote in *Haaretz*.

However, the cumulative effects of the Middle East unrest are prompting shifts throughout the region that may require dramatic strategic rethinking in the Jewish state.

The uprisings have been led by young people networking through the Internet and social media like Facebook. They have not been dominated by Islamists, and the protesters have not made Israel a focal point.

Every time a protest movement in the Middle East succeeds, protest movements elsewhere are emboldened, and that has put many regimes that for decades have not been hostile to Israel — including those of the Persian Gulf, Jordan and North Africa –on alert and at risk.

With Israel and the West engaged in a proxy war with Iran for regional hegemony, the fall of autocratic regimes allied with the West provides an opening for Iran to expand its power and sphere of influence. And Iran is intent on doing so. It was no accident that just days after the fall of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, Tehran dispatched two warships to sail through the Suez Canal — something Iran had not dared to do since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The ships docked in Syria in what Iran's Navy chief, Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari, described as "a routine and friendly visit" to "carry the message of peace and friendship to world countries."

In truth, it was an exercise in saber rattling.

Iran is projecting "self-confidence and certain assertiveness in the region," Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak told CNN. Nevertheless, he said, "I don't like it, but I don't think that any one of us should be worried by it."

When a pair of rockets fired from Gaza hit the Israeli city of Beersheba last month, some Israeli analysts saw it as another example of Iran's saber rattling. Iran has sent weapons to Gaza and seeks more influence there, even though the strip's Hamas rulers are Sunni Muslims, and Iran is a Shiite power.

"I do not recommend that anyone test Israel's determination," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after the rocket attack.

The great fear is that regimes friendly toward Israel (Egypt, Jordan), or friendly with Israel by proxy via the United States (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain), or not actively hostile (Libya, among others), will be co-opted by elements with greater animus toward the Jewish state.

That hostility could come from any one of a number of places. On the Egyptian front, the long-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, an ally of Hamas, stands to gain greater power. In the cases of Tunisa and Libya, there is fear that al-Qaeda could capitalize on a power vacuum and take root. In Bahrain, which is overwhelmingly Shiite but ruled by a Sunni king, the concern is that genuine democracy could throw the country the way of Iran.

"The regional balance of power is changing, and not necessarily in Israel's favor," Robert Serry, the U.N. secretary-general's special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, said at the J Street conference. But there could be some good news, too. The uprisings that have spread from North Africa to the Persian Gulf have been broad-based, loosely organized protest movements led by young people networking through the Internet and social media like Facebook. They have not been dominated by Islamists, and the protesters have not made Israel a focal point.

continued on page 33

New mall in Caracas provides a safe haven for Jews

By Jasmina Kelemen

CARACAS, Venezuela (JTA)—Six teenagers sit laughing around barely touched platters of hamburgers and fries on a recent Friday afternoon, oblivious to the deli manager's harried attempts to close out the cash register ahead of the rapidly declining sun.

One of the teens remembers to return a blue-and-white kipah the restaurant keeps on hand in case a customer forgets to bring his own.

"I'm leaving in exactly seven minutes," the manager says politely but firmly. "Come back anytime after Shabbat."

At a new mall in Caracas, where Cafe Hillel is among dozens of establishments catering to a primarily Jewish clientele, it's an extraordinary scene.

The Galerias Sebucan mall, which opened late last year just blocks from a grand new Sephardic synagogue in a well-known Jewish neighborhood, has Jewish owners. Most, if not all, of the shop owners are Jewish. So are many of the patrons.

That has made the mall a place both where the diversity of Jewish Venezuelan culture is on vivid display and where Jews can feel safe in a city plagued by violent crime—and where Jews don't always feel safe to appear identifiably Jewish.

But Coby Benzaquen, the owner of Cafe Hillel, said a key motivating factor behind opening the kosher deli was the desire to provide a safe, upscale environment for young Jews to hang out. "The community didn't have a place where families and young people could go and feel comfortable," Benzaquen said.

For a community that has seen its numbers dwindle in the face of an economic crisis, rising crime, the stirrings of anti-Semitism and the strident anti-Zionism promoted by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the opening of a mall catering to Jewish Venezuelans would seem to be bad business.

Cafe Hillel, a kosher deli at the new Caracas mall, has become a home away from home for the Jewish community

Benzaquen is undeterred by such pessimism. "You can't give up your quality of life because of fear," he said. "The Jew is a fighter. He's always moving forward."

Families of all religious stripes pass through the compact, three-story commercial center. On a given afternoon, young Orthodox families can be seen pushing strollers as they window shop and chase small boys with unshorn locks. Students from the local Jewish school, wearing navy blue sweat suits emblazoned with menorahs, stand around in clusters. Deeply tanned young women sporting Hamsa necklaces scroll through their iPhones and meet for coffee and crepes. This being Venezuela, many of them are scantily clad, showing off their surgical "enhancements."

The Jewish community has fallen to about 10,000 from a peak of 20,000 just before Chavez came to power in 1999. Many Jews cite rising crime, politics and anti-Semitic rants from government media as reasons for leaving.

Meanwhile, despite historically high oil prices, Venezuela was among the few economies in Latin America to contract last year due to severe power shortages, strict foreign exchange controls and the ever-present threat of expropriation of private holdings by the government.

Benzaquen is the first to admit that opening a kosher establishment in a city that many Jews have abandoned and has become notoriously inhospitable to privately owned businesses is "a gamble." But he says it's not just about business.

"This isn't really a business for us," Benzaquen said, referring to himself and his partner, Mois Azerraf. "It's more like a personal whim. We just really felt the need for it."

Cafe Hillel, which has a huge mural of the Brooklyn Bridge and nearly a dozen flat-screen televisions mounted on the wall, offers American-style food such as burgers and sandwiches. It's probably also the only place in Caracas where you can order a pastrami sandwich.

Benzaquen says the Galerias Sebucan mall is just one of two in Latin America that allows store owners to observe Shabbat and Jewish holidays. The other is in Buenos Aires, home to South America's largest Jewish community.

"Imagine being closed on Saturday—that's the busiest day of the week," Benzaquen said.

continued on page 33

Expanding its presence in Africa, Chabad faces unique challenges

By Ben Harris and Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA)—Congolese President Joseph Kabila probably had other things on his mind last week other than the celebration in his capital city of Kinshasa marking the 20th anniversary of the city's Chabad center.

On Feb. 27, about 100 fighters armed with assault rifles and rocket launchers staged two simultaneous attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of them directed at Kabila's residence in an affluent neighborhood of the capital. More than a dozen people were killed, including several Congolese soldiers.

But a few days later, Kabila managed to take time out to call the local Chabad director, Rabbi Shlomo Bentolila, during the Chabad celebration at the Grand Hotel, and to send a representative to deliver a speech on the president's behalf.

The event coincided with the announcement that Chabad will open two new centers in the heart of Africa in the coming months—in Nairobi, Kenya, and Lagos, Nigeria. The one in Congo currently is the only Chabad in sub-Saharan Africa outside of South Africa.

"The work is not easy, but we are seeing, thank God, fruits, and we hope to continue to see that," Bentolila, the Chabad director for Central Africa, told JTA by phone from Kinshasa.

Chabad will send emissaries to the new centers, which are located in the capitals of the two countries. Chabad's Africa operations—now 20 years old and encompassing activities in 14 countries—are no stranger to political unrest or the unique challenges presented by working on the continent.

Bentolila, a father of four from Montreal, has survived two Congolese wars, including the revolution that deposed Mobotu Sese Seku. The rabbi went outside to greet rebel forces taking the capital who passed by his synagogue on a Shabbat afternoon in 1997.

"Those past 20 years have not always been easy for you and for your family," Antoine Ghonda, the president's representative, said at the Chabad celebration, according to a transcript provided to JTA.

Chabad centers in Africa play a unique role, serving Jews and Jewish communities comprised largely of expatriates

"But since you believe in this country, its people and its future, you continue to provide support."

Like most Chabad emissaries who find themselves setting up shop at the perimeter of the Jewish world, Bentolila struggled in his early days in the Congo to secure kosher food and recruit a minyan quorum for Shabbat prayers. Today the community has a supply of kosher meat, a ritual bath and a small Jewish school.

Bentolila says the new centers were supported entirely by local philanthropy.

"We don't go abroad to take money," he said. "We support ourselves locally."

Chabad centers in Africa play a unique role, serving Jews and Jewish communities comprised largely of expatriates—transient American, British and Israeli Jewish businesspeople and their families, and a few descendants of European Jews who fled to Africa during the Holocaust.

Unlike at many Chabad centers in other exotic locations, Chabad emissaries in Africa see relatively few tourists. Chabad tries to do everything from fly in emissaries to lead seders and High Holidays services in cities all over the continent to helping orchestrate the return home of sick, stuck or deceased Jews.

"There are both physical and spiritual challenges to working in Africa," says Chananya Rogalsky, a Chabadnik from the Chabad-Lubavitch movement's world headquarters in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, N.Y., who travels frequently to Africa to perform Jewish outreach work. Rogalsky recounts one episode in Tanzania that landed him in trouble, when he and a friend were stopped while immersing their dishes in a pool of water that served as a natural mikvah to render their kitchen utensils kosher for use. "Before we knew it, we were surrounded by tribesmen accusing us of witchcraft and poisoning their water," he said. "We had to bribe them to get out of there."

The day before a seder in Angola for some 150 guests, all the food spoiled when the hotel's electricity went out on a typical stiflingly hot day. While Bentolila made sure enough food made it to the hotel in time for the seder, Rogalsky was left with little more than a box of matzah and bottled water to make it through the remainder of the holiday week. He had some local fruit, but it turned his stomach.

The biggest scare, however, came when the Israelis at the seder starting running through the service so quickly that they reached the meal part in 15 minutes, he said.

"I thought to myself, 'I can't have a seder that ends in half an hour. This is ridiculous,'" Rogalsky said. "So we started singing songs, and everybody started singing along with us. That lasted five hours. Nobody left the hotel ballroom till after midnight. It was an unbelievable experience."

Joshua Walker, a doctoral student from the American Midwest, said he discovered the Chabad in Kinshasa a few weeks ago and became a Shabbat regular in a matter of weeks.

"I'm not a Chabad person at all; I'm just a Jewish guy who happens to be in the Congo," Walker told JTA in a phone interview conducted while he was riding on the back of a motorcycle taxi.

Walker had been at that Chabad center once a few years ago while in Kinshasa for a stint with the United Nations. Now back in Congo for several months, he returned to Chabad seeking out Bentolila.

"I've been thinking about faith in general. I had been raised mainly secular, with a few notions of Jewish holidays, and I want to know more," Walker said. "It's about the timing in your life. There's a moment maybe when you begin to consider spirituality. It's also about finding something familiar in a place that's unfamiliar, that isn't the place where you come from."

Rogalsky says such experiences are not atypical in Africa. "In these places, they are so happy to have someone there bring the joy of Shabbat or any of the holidays to them," he said. "They're so bogged down in the physical, work and family challenges, just the fact that someone sings songs and gives them a nice d'var Torah makes a tremendous difference with them."

Of all the places around the world in which he has done Jewish outreach, including Asia, South America and Europe, Rogalsky says Africa stands out. "In Africa, there's a certain light, a certain energy," he said. "When you come there you're able to illuminate people in a way I haven't experienced anywhere else in the world." ■

Mahler's 3rd Symphony: a conversation with A2SO Maestro Arie Lipsky

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

The zenith of the Ann Arbor Symphony's 2010-2011 season will be their performance of the Mahler Third Symphony on April 30, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the composer's death. It is an enormous work, the longest in the standard symphonic repertoire and employing a large, expanded orchestra, alto soloist, a children's chorus and a women's chorus. It goes without saying that, like any Mahler symphony, it presents a wide variety of huge musical and logistical challenges. I asked Arie Lipsky, the A2SO's conductor, about perhaps the most obvious one.

WJN: How will you manage to fit everyone on the stage of the Michigan Theatre?

Lipsky: We'll have to extend the stage, cover maybe the first five or six rows of seats, maybe ten feet. But it's still going to be tight.

WJN: This is such a long work. Will you, as is common in performances of this symphony, have an intermission after the first movement?

Lipsky: We'll take a little break after the third movement because otherwise the chorus would be on stage throughout this almost two-hour work. I feel sorry for them. I'm standing up. At least I'm doing something. (Laughter) So they will be entering after the third movement. Then the fourth through sixth movements almost segue, without real pause.

Mahler

The first movement, which is as long as most Beethoven Symphonies, about 35 minutes, features nine horns, eight parts with an assistant, because everybody there needs a little life support! (Laughter) The first movement also features the biggest solo in the repertoire for the trombone. When you think trombone, you think brass, you think march, but this is the most emotional solo that you can imagine, and the emotions go from sad and depressed to happy, bravura. The third movement features a trumpeter, backstage.

Maestro Arie Lipsky

It's typical Mahler. It's a symphony about life. The first movement is about youth, vigor. The second movement is about nature, beautiful, landler, very pastoral. The third movement, with this big solo in the trumpet, is upbeat, simple, the trumpet is like the voice of a young boy. The soloist will come in for the fourth movement. The music is just absolutely gorgeous, very slow, very haunting, very religious in a way. And then in the fifth movement, the children's choir and women's choir and soloist, all together. Very short movement, very sweet, also very young.

Each movement is about a different phase of life, but each movement also has in it every other phase. So you can perform just the first movement and be completely satisfied, because it has all these elements. Even the pastoral movement has a moment of eruption, because thunder and lightning happens also in nature. Each movement is complete, and my job is to bring all these complete movements into one unified statement, which is always the ultimate test.

When we look back at his previous symphony, Mahler Symphony Number Two, the chorus comes in toward the end and it's one of the greatest moments in the history of music because he prepares you emotionally for about an hour and ten minutes, and then the chorus comes in a cappella and you feel like you've just entered heaven. I don't know many people who can resist starting to cry.

Mahler, being who he was, told himself, "Let's see how great I am. Can I create the same kind of feeling without the chorus?" (Laughter) So the sixth movement, (it's one of the only Mahler Symphonies with so many movements) we're done with movement five, with the children's choir, the women's choir, and it's time for the orchestra. It's an adagio that grows and grows. It has the same kind of feeling, when just the strings enter, first violins leading, you just…wow. Just thinking about it you get teary-eyed. And then you have a very slow march, and you feel purified, you've entered the gates. This time you made it just with the music, without voices. It's even above the Second. You have fewer instruments to achieve the same thing. And oh boy, did he achieve that! (Laughter)

It's very interesting. After this Symphony, Mahler couldn't think of anything else. So the Fourth Symphony is much smaller. It's the smallest and shortest of his symphonies. (Laughter)

WJN: I remember that you conducted the Mozart Requiem from memory. Are you going to do that with this Symphony? (Laughter) I thought that was pushing the boundaries, are you going to push it even further?

Lipsky: We'll see. (Laughter) For me, the method of memory is not so much to be able to know the music, but it gives you a way to relate to the musicians, without turning pages, without being bound. I've developed over the years a technique, a way to internalize what I'm studying. But, nevertheless, this piece lasts almost two hours with unbelievable changes of meter, mood and orchestration, color… it's an opportunity for the whole orchestra. It's one of the most rewarding experience any musician can have. I've been spending a lot of time with the score. It's complicated, very complicated. Each page has so much information; just to study one page takes days. Mahler was a famous conductor himself, he conducted the New York Philharmonic, he conducted all over the world, so he tried to guide you, putting all these remarks for every instrument.

WJN: So he does more of that than is usual?

Lipsky: Yes. Absolutely. You compare a score of a Beethoven Symphony, which has *allegro con brio,* sometimes a metronome marking, *forte*, piano, that's it. With Mahler you have one page and he gives you *allegro con brio*, but for one line he says *espressivo,* another line says *nicht schlep*, don't schlep, he uses that a lot. One line says *dolce*, one line is *fortissimo*, one line is piano, and one of the jobs of the conductor is to balance. A *forte* from a trumpet is different from a *forte* for a flute. And if the flute has the melody, in rehearsal you have to balance that. Mahler takes care of that. He was an extremely smart conductor. He knew exactly what he wanted. So, in a way it saves you time. You just have to make sure it's being done. The only thing he left you, he does not write metronome markings. He'll write, "Without haste." Does that mean slow? He leaves that up to you. He just gives you the idea, because as a conductor you have the liberty to do things based on the orchestra, on the hall, what kind of echo you get, so you have to work with so many facts.

WJN: How many rehearsals will you have?

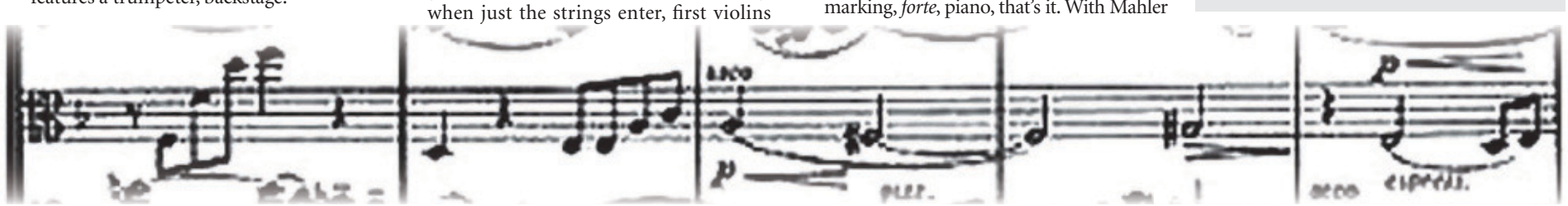
Lipsky: Five. Monday we'll rehearse with the choirs, we'll have a separate rehearsal with the singer. And then we'll have one rehearsal with just the strings because there are just so many issues to resolve. Then, because of logistics and the difficulty of the piece, even though we usually have the dress rehearsal on Sunday morning, we'll have it on Friday night.

WJN: It's too tiring to do it twice.

Lipsky: Absolutely. It's too tiring to do it twice in one day. We'll be completely exhausted because we'll have two rehearsals on Friday. (Laughter) The most difficult parts, as far as endurance, is for the brass players, so we want to make sure that that's taken care of Friday afternoon, so they can rest and then give a hell of a… no, a heck of a performance Saturday night. (Laughter) You don't talk about hell when it comes to Mahler. It doesn't work. It's heaven—it's absolutely heaven. What a privilege! It's a celebration. It's rare to be able to hear Mahler Three live. ■

Discount tickets available for A2SO performance

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will celebrate Mahler's 150th birthday this season with his Third Symphony. Performing with the orchestra will be the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, UMS Choral Union and soloist Melody Racine. The concert will take place on April 30, at 8 p.m., at the Michigan Theater. Discounted tickets may be purchased by members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor by calling 994-4801 or online at a2so.com.



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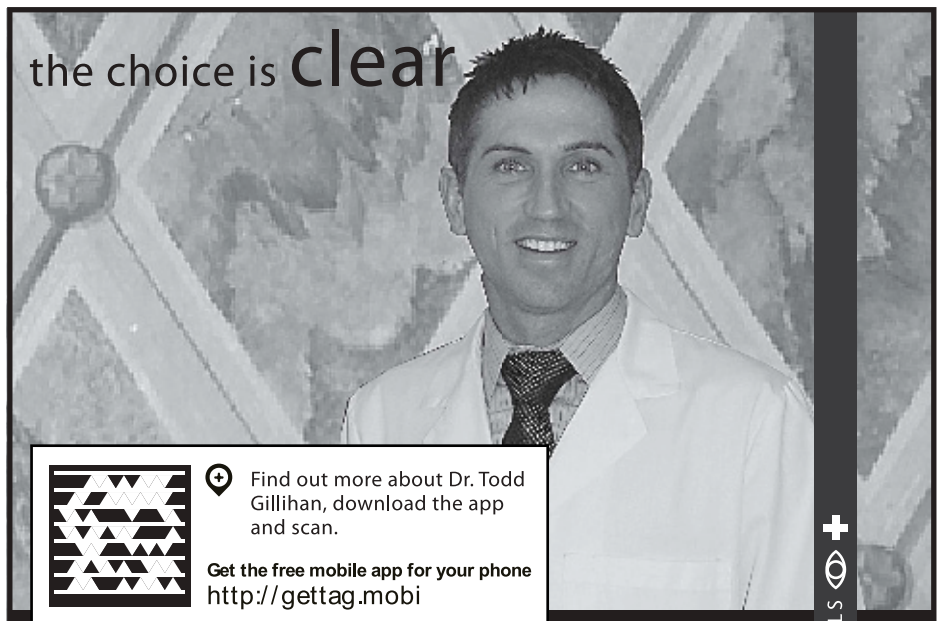

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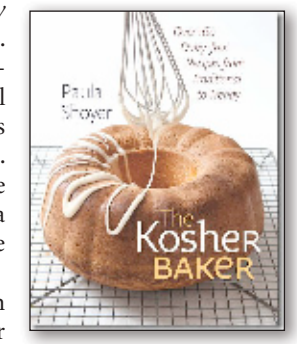
Irresistible Passover pastries: Who knew it was possible?

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA)—With all the restrictions, are decent desserts even possible during Passover?

"My particular talent is working around restriction," says Paula Shoyer, author of *The Kosher Baker: Over 160 Dairy-free Recipes from Traditional to Trendy* (Brandeis University Press, 2010). Her cookbook contains a chapter on Passover baking, as well as many sensational recipes sans flour or yeast—Passover taboos. Flourless Chocolate Cake, Marble Chocolate Matzoh and Mocha Matzoh Napolean are some of the book's gems.



Shoyer, whose magical touch is without peer in the Passover dessert genre, calls them "my gift to the Jewish people." More than anything, Shoyer wants the eye rolls to stop upon hearing the words pareve desserts—pastries made without dairy products. She laments that kosher bakeries year after year for Passover offer the same dry brownies, sponge cakes, coconut macaroons and vanilla rolls with jam inside.

"Have you ever noticed that packaged Passover cookies and cakes start appearing in supermarkets in February?" asks Shoyer, of Chevy Chase, Maryland. "With so many preservatives in them, they could survive a nuclear attack."

During Passover, Shoyer bakes as much as possible, mostly for the sake of her children. "Home-baked desserts are kind of a holiday bonus," she says.

Using 28 dozen eggs during the holiday, mostly in pastries, Shoyer prepares plenty of Chocolate Chip Hazelnut Biscotti and Chocolate Brownie Cookies for the kids' snacks. She also keeps a supply of her popular Amaretto Cookies on hand for visiting friends.

Her most stunning Passover dessert? Without doubt it's the Key Lime Pie—even though Shoyer's favorite is the Chocolate Chiffon Cake. Waxing poetic about the silky texture of her Strawberry Mousse, Shoyer confides that when she was growing up, her mother stuck to traditional dessert fare at Passover. She relied on Manischewitz mixes to make brownies, coffee cakes and sponge cakes.

Her grandmother baked the perfect lemon sponge cake using a recipe straight from the Streit's box, then changed it so frequently over time that one couldn't recognize the airy but distinctly citrus result.

With such natural talent, Shoyer's grandmother once asked her, "Why go to school to learn how to bake?"

Shoyer had started baking for fun during college. She brought back chocolate from a trip to Belgium in 1984 and began experimenting with it in recipes. During her 20s she moved to Geneva and landed a job at the United Nations. In Switzerland, she tasted some sensational desserts and decided to reinvent them as dairy free without sacrificing their buttery flavor.

Then in her 30s while living in Paris, Shoyer received her pastry diploma from the Ritz Escoffier Ecole de Gastronomie Francaise. She returned to Chevy Chase, and started Paula's Parisian Pastries Cooking School.

With such a varied career, she found time to get married and raise four children—and revolutionize kosher baking.

"I wouldn't eat a dessert that isn't worth the calories," Shoyer says.

In *The Kosher Baker* Shoyer worried that the Passover chapter was too heavily weighted with chocolate pastries. "Can you have too much chocolate?" asked one of her friends.

The following recipes are from *The Kosher Baker*. All are pareve and kosher for Passover. ■

Chocolate Chiffon Cake

(Two-Step Prep, But Very Doable)

This cake is a classic Passover dessert in terms of the technique, which entails separating eggs. But the flavor is without peer.

1 cup matzah cake meal
1/2 cup potato starch
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups sugar, divided in half
1/2 cup vegetable oil
8 large eggs, separated
3/4 cup water
1 tablespoon rum extract
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
4 ounces pareve bittersweet chocolate, chopped into 1/4-inch chunks

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, sift together the cake meal, potato starch, baking powder, salt, and 3/4 cup of the sugar. Add the oil, egg yolks, water and rum extract; beat until smooth.

In a separate bowl, use an electric mixer on high speed to beat the egg whites with the lemon juice until stiff. Turn the speed to low and gradually add the remaining 3/4 cup of sugar. Turn up the speed to high and then beat until the whites are very stiff and shiny, about 1 minute more.

Use a silicone spatula to fold the egg-yolk mixture into the whites and then fold in the chopped chocolate.

Pour the batter into an ungreased 10-inch Bundt or tube pan. Bake for 1 hour. Let cool in the pan. When cool, use a knife to loosen the edges of the cake and turn onto a serving plate.

Store covered in plastic at room temperature for up to five days or freeze wrapped in plastic for up to three months.

Yield: 16 servings

Amaretto Cookies

(Quick and elegant)

If you've ever been to Italy and sipped a cappuccino, you may have been lucky enough to enjoy these almond-flavored cookies, which are a favorite of Shoyer's.

Parchment paper
8-ounce bag slivered almonds (about 1 3/4 cups)
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon potato starch (flour can be substituted after Passover)
2 large egg whites
1 tablespoon amaretto (almond-flavored liqueur)

Preheat oven to 325°. Line a large jelly roll pan with parchment paper. Spread the almonds on the parchment paper and toast for 20 minutes, stirring the nuts after 10 minutes. When the almonds are golden and fragrant, remove the pan from the oven and slide the parchment off the pan. Let cool for 5 minutes.

Place the toasted almonds into the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Process until the nuts are ground to a powder. Place the ground nuts in a medium bowl. Add the sugar, potato starch, egg whites and amaretto; mix until combined. Paula Shoyer likes to use her hands to mix the ingredients, but a wooden spoon is a neater option. Line 2 jelly roll pans or cookie sheets with parchment.

Wet your hands and take walnut-sized clumps of dough and roll them into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place the balls on the prepared baking sheets, about 2 inches apart. Be sure not to overcrowd the cookies; they spread while baking. You can bake in two batches. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes: 25 minutes for chewier cookies or 30 minutes for crunchier cookies. Slide the parchment off the cookie sheet onto a cooling rack and let the cookies cool.

Place baked and cooled cookies into an airtight container or freezer bags and store at room temperature for up to five days or freeze up to three months.

Yield: about 3 dozen cookies

Key Lime Pie

(Three-Step Prep, Doable But Requires Planning)

Although this classic American dessert is usually made with condensed milk, Shoyer went through several stages of experimentation to achieve creamy results using only pareve ingredients.

Crust:

4 tablespoons pareve margarine
2 cups ground walnuts (walnuts can be purchased ground or can be prepared from 4 cups of walnut halves ground in a food processor but not as fine as flour)
3 tablespoons light brown sugar
8- or 9-inch pie pan

Filling:

5 large eggs, plus 3 yolks
1-1/2 cups sugar
7 limes, or
14 Key limes (which are smaller than regular limes)
1/2 cup (1 stick) pareve margarine
1 drop green food coloring, optional

Meringue Topping:

2/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
Candy thermometer
2 large egg whites

Preheat the oven to 350°.

To make the crust: Place the margarine in a medium microwave-safe bowl and heat for 45 seconds or until melted. Add the walnuts and brown sugar; mix until combined. Place this mixture into the pie pan and press to cover the bottom and about 1 inch up the sides. Place in the oven for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. Leave the oven on.

To make the lime cream filling: Place the eggs, yolks and sugar in a heatproof bowl and set over a medium saucepan with simmering water (or use a double boiler). Zest 3 of the regular limes (6 of the Key limes) and add to the bowl. Stir to combine. Juice the 3 zested limes, plus the remaining 4 limes (or 8 Key limes) to obtain about 1/2 cup of juice. Then stir juice into the egg and sugar mixture. Cook uncovered over simmering water for about 25 minutes, stirring occasionally, until a thick mixture forms. Be patient and do not stir too much. If the water in the saucepan or double boiler boils too fast, turn down the heat. Remove the bowl from the heat and whisk in the margarine in small pieces until the lime cream is smooth. Add the green food coloring, if using, and stir.

Pour the lime cream into the prepared crust and smooth. Place the pie on a cookie sheet and bake for 20 minutes, or until the outside edges of the lime cream are set (the inside can remain wobbly). Let cool and then place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

To make the meringue topping: In a small heavy saucepan, bring the sugar and water to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Continue to cook the sugar until it reaches 230 degrees on the candy thermometer. You can dip a pastry brush in water and wipe down the sides of the pot, if any sugar crystals appear on the sides. While the sugar is cooking, in a medium bowl, beat the egg whites with an electric mixer on high speed until stiff. When the sugar is ready, turn the mixer speed to low and then slowly pour the cooked sugar into the bowl, down the side of the bowl, not directly onto the wire whisk. When all of the sugar has been poured in, turn the mixer up to medium-high and beat for 1 minute, until the meringue is thick and shiny.

Use a silicone spatula to spread the meringue all over the top of the pie. You can use a blowtorch to lightly brown the top or place the pie in a 450° oven for a few minutes, watching the entire time until the top browns. Chill in the refrigerator. Pie can be stored in the refrigerator for up to four days.

Yield: 8 servings

Looking to Make a Difference in Your Community?

...Become a Friendly Visitor

- These special volunteers meet weekly with isolated older adults in their homes to provide companionship, socialization opportunities, and comfort.

- Volunteers should enjoy the company of older adults, and have excellent communication skills.

- All volunteers are carefully screened, matched, interviewed, and trained before working with our older adult clients.
- Potential volunteers are subject to background checks.

** Volunteers should be available 1-2 hours * a week and commit to 6 months of service.*

For more information contact Deborah Renner, at (734) 769-0209 or deborah@jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Calendar

April 2011

Friday 1

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Honoring Susan Greenberg's retirement as TBE's Alpha House Coordinator. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 2

Lay-led Torah Study: TBE. 8:50 a.m. in the Chapel.

Morning Service: TBE. 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 3

Davening Workshop: BIC. With Ron Sussman. 9 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Minyan: BIC. Note special time of 6:30 p.m.

Passover College: BIC. 7 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 4

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. For JCC members only in grades K-5. Middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. Each day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, gym time, and outdoor recess. $36 per day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; $4 discount for additional siblings. $10 additional for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Also April 5, 6, 7 and 8.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. Study of *M'tzora,* led by Cantor Annie Rose. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 5

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See April 4.*

"Toward a Meaningful Life: A Soul-Searching Journey for Every Jew:" Jewish Learning Institute. The objective of this course is to teach new life skills based on traditional Torah thought and to empower individuals of all backgrounds to transform the way they view daily life. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday except April 19 and 26 for Passover.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Presentation, Reception and Film: TBE. An evening with Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Religious Action Center in Jerusalem. Sponsored by the Sidney Davidson Fund at TBE. Hoffman will speak about equal religious rights in Israel at 7 p.m., followed by a dessert reception and showing of the film, *Praying in Her Own Voice,* at 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 6

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See April 4.*

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 7

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See April 4.*

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. With Cantor Annie Rose. This month's selection is *Speaking of Faith,* by Krista Tippett. Noon–1:30 p.m.

Birthdays and Presentation: JCC-Seniors. Celebration for all with April birthdays. Family and friends invited for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Following celebration, Karen Strauch-Braun, a docent at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, will present on some of the museum's holdings at 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 8

April Break Fun Days: JCC Youth. *See April 4.*

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar*

Saturday 9

Lay-led Torah Study: TBE. 8:50 a.m. in the Chapel.

Shabbat Service: TBE. 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

New Mini Minyan: BIC. For K–2nd Graders. 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat: BIC. For 3rd–5th Graders. 11 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For preschoolers and their families. 11:15 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 10

Davening Workshop: BIC. With Ron Sussman. 9 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Hikers: TBE. Meet at main entrance to Lily Park, located ½ mile south of Ellsworth Road and Platt Road, for a hike that will last 1 to 1–1/2 hours and that will not be physically demanding but will be very scenic. Bring a backpack, hot chocolate, munchies, and water. Find links to park maps on TBE website at www.templebethemeth.org. For information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Minyan: BIC. Time moves to 7:30 p.m.

Spring Jewish Cultural Arts Festival: JCC-Cultural Arts and Education. Featuring four speakers including Martin Shichtman and Laurie Finke, authors of *Cinematic Illuminations: The Middle Ages on Film* and Maestro Arie Lipsky and Jeffrey Bernstein, co-editor and contributing author of *Citizenship Across America.* $6 per person per event or $15 for 3-part series. For information, contact mimiweisberg@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7:30 p.m. *Through April 13.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 11

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop: TBE. Ongoing weekly group with Cantor Annie Rose. Noon.

Tuesday 12

"Toward a Meaningful Life: A Soul-Searching Journey for Every Jew:" Jewish Learning Institute. The objective of this course is to teach new life skills based on traditional Torah thought and to empower individuals of all backgrounds to transform the way they view daily life. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting for the patients of Mott Hospital, art projects and card games. 1 p.m. Wii sports including bowling, tennis, golf and baseball. No experience necessary. 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday except April 19 and 26 for Passover.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. This month's film is *Sixty Six,* a quirky coming of age story of Bernie, a young boy seeking to overcome the awkwardness of pre-adolescence by having the perfect Bar Mitzvah. 1–3 p.m.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Pesach Study: BIC Women's League. 7 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 13

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Senior Seder: JCC Seniors. Led by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin of Beth Israel Congregation. Includes a catered meal. Reserve by April 7 by phoning Merrill at 971-0990 or email merrill@jfsannarbor.org. Transportation can be arranged by phoning Abbie at 769-0209 or by email to abbie@jfsannarbor.org. 5:30–7 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Bi-monthly group includes learning and lively discussion, led by Roger Stutesman. For information, contact Roger at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 14

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Passover Boutique: JCC. Unique items for Passover celebrations, including Seder plates, matzah covers, haggadot and more. 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, Noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Intergenerational Passover Program: JCC-ECC. The JCC Early Childhood Center and SPICE Older Adults Program celebrate Passover together. Children will also participate in an interactive telling of the Passover story. Holiday songs and dances will enliven the celebration. For reservations, phone 971-0990.11 a.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A nurse from Care Response will monitor blood pressures at 12:30 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by a presentation by Eastern Michigan University faculty member Julia Myers on the art of Ruth Weisberg.

Brotherhood Men's Seder: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 15

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Dinner: TBE. Once monthly adult dinner before services. $10/adult; $5/children ages 12 and under. Reserve at www.templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Brotherhood Shabbat Service with Kol Halev. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 16

Lay-led Torah Study: TBE. 8:50 a.m. in the Chapel.

Morning Service: TBE. 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 17

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Peulah: Ken Pardes Habonim D'ror. Youth group activity. For more information, contact ken.annarbor@gmail.com. 2–4 p.m.

Passover Sale: TBE. Gift Shop sale. 3–7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 18

Shaharit and Siyyum Bechorot: BIC. 7 a.m.

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Passover Shararit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Passover Service: Chabad. 9:45 a.m.

Passover Seder: Chabad. Traditional Seder, with inspiring insights into the Haggadah. In English and Hebrew. Enjoy full course festive, homemade meal, $36/community members; $18/UM students. Reservations required at www.jewmich.com. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 19

Passover Shararit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Passover Service: Chabad. 9:45 a.m.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Second Night Seder: TBE. Open to the community. $18/adults; $15/children ages 4–10. No charge for tots. Reserve at www.templebethemeth.org or phone 665-4744. 6 p.m.

Passover Seder: Chabad. Traditional Seder, with inspiring insights into the Haggadah. In English and Hebrew. Enjoy full course festive, homemade meal, including fish, meat, chicken soup, handmade Shmurah matzah, wine and grape juice, and desserts. $36/community members; $18/UM students. Reservations required at www.jewmich.com. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 20

Passover Shararit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Passover Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 21

April School's Out Days: JCC Youth. For JCC members only in grades K-5 at HDS and other schools. Middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. $36 per day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; $4 discount for additional siblings. $10 additional for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Also April 22.*

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Presentation: JCC-Seniors: A staff member from the Area Agency on Aging shares a variety of driving tips. 1 p.m.

Film Showing: JCS Social Action Committee. Showing of award-winning film, *Amreeka,* the story of an immigrant Palestinian mother and her teenage son who are relocating from the West Bank to the heartland of America. $9/adults; $7/students. Proceeds donated to Doctors Without Borders. To purchase tickets in advance, or for information about a tax deductible sponsorship for the film, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org or leave message at 975-9872. 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 22

April School's Out Days: JCC Youth. For JCC members only in grades K-5 at AAPS, HDS and other schools. Middle school students may also participate as helpers for a reduced fee. $36 per day for 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; $4 discount for additional siblings. $10 additional for extended care from 4–6 p.m. For information, contact deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 23

Torah Study: TBE. Monthly session led by Rabbi David Aaron, professor of Bible at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and visiting scholar with the University of Michigan's Frankel Center. 8:50 a.m. in classrooms 9–10.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. With Rabbi Dobrusin. 9 a.m.

Morning Service: TBE. 10 a.m. in the Chapel.

Shabbat Meditation Workshop: BIC. 11:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 24

Davening Workshop: BIC. With Ron Sussman. 9 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, plus an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

"Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak:" JCS. Local area youth perform dramatic readings from Deborah Ellis's 2002 book, which describes Palestinian and Jewish children's perceptions. At the JCC. For information, email info@jewishculturalsociety.org or leave message at 975-9872. 10–Noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Passover Mincha and Ma'ariv: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learn the deeper meanings of the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 25

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Passover Shaharit Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Passover Yizkor Service: TBE. Service for the last day of Passover, followed by lunch. 11 a.m.

Passover Mincha Service: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 26

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Beginning Hebrew Class: TBE. Six-week continuation of Hebrew class. Contact Brett Willner at 665-4744 to register. 6:15 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 27

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Bring a dairy lunch. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Noon.

Afternoon Delights: JCC Seniors. Arie Lipsky, of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, returns with a group of his musical colleagues. $8 at the door. 1 p.m.

Thursday 28

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Anita Norich, University of Michigan professor of Judaic Studies and Frankel Scholar, will make a presentation. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 29

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sukkat Shalom and Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 30

Lay-led Torah Study: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Morning Service: TBE. 10 a.m. in the Chapel.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

continued on page 33

Hayfever May 5-8

By Noel Coward - Directed by Wendy Wright

8pm Th-Sat, 2 pm Sun Arthur Miller Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York City

Tickets: Th.: $15, Fri.-Sun.: Adults: $20, Seniors (60+): $18, Students: $10

Miss Saigon June 9-12

music by Claude-Michel Schonberg + lyrics by Alain Boubil and Richard Maltby Jr.

book by Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boubil + directed by Wendy Sielaff

8pm Th-Sat, 2 pm Sun / Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

Tickets: Th.: $17, Fri.-Sun.: Adults: $22, Seniors (60+): $20, Students: $12

Reservations & Info.: **734-971-2228** or **a2ct.org**

A2ct

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Bank of Ann Arbor helps

MICHIGAN COMMERCE BANK

Savour THE journey

"A celebration of the things we love about life."

Saturday | May 21, 2011

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center

8768 North Territorial Road | Plymouth, Michigan

Please join us for a wonderful evening filled with laughter and fun as you savour fabulous wine, a spectacular strolling supper featuring special selections from celebrity chefs, decadent desserts, music by The Royce & Jenn Band, featuring Royce the Voice and Jennifer Christansen, and dancing all while supporting The Arbor Hospice Foundation.

All proceeds from this celebration go directly back into the community through support of Arbor Hospice Pediatric Hospice and Grief Support Services.

Contact us at **specialevents@arborhospice.org**, via phone at **734.794.5122** or visit us at **www.arborhospice.org** to purchase your tickets for this great event.

Join us as a friend on Facebook and receive updates about the event.

THE Arbor Hospice FOUNDATION

mitz-vah...(n)

1. A commandment of the Jewish law; the fulfillment of such a commandment.
2. A worthy deed.

At JFS, we're all about good deeds. As Passover approaches, we reflect on the history of the Jewish people as we help many of our clients escape oppression and slavery on their journey to freedom. We help new Americans navigate red tape and improve their English skills. We impart a sense of empowerment as we work with our clients to prepare them for the workforce.

We do all of this while showing the highest degree of respect for each and every client, and by providing the highest quality service – including transportation, counseling, medical accompaniment and much more.

But we can't do it alone. We need the support of our community to ensure that we can continue to serve every one of the richly deserving individuals and families that come to us...throughout the circle of life.

Make your mitzvah count. Your financial contribution has the potential to transform the lives of those who are challenged by poverty, disability, aging, addiction, failing health, unemployment, resettlement and other issues.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Your Family in the Community.

Please give generously to Jewish Family Services
www.jfsannarbor.org or 734-769-0209

2245 S. State Street • Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • www.jfsannarbor.org • 734-769-0209

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candlelighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of frequently listed organizations :

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

April 1	**7:42 pm**
April 8	**7:50 pm**
April 15	**7:58 pm**
April 22	**8:05 pm**
April 29	**8:13 pm**

News Analysis, continued from page 25

Whether these young people really will take hold of the levers of power, and how they will relate to Israel in the future, are open questions.

For those concerned with Israel, the unrest is being interpreted one of two ways, depending largely on political leanings. Those on the right point to the instability as a reason for Israel to be more wary of concessions in any peace agreements, since their peace partner could disappear at any time.

"Why should Israel expect that another agreement would not be overturned by some new revolution, change of mind or cynical long-term plan?" columnist Barry Rubin wrote in *The Jerusalem Post*.

Those on the left say that if Israel does not resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict quickly with a peace deal, the new generation of leaders emerging in the Arab world won't be able to see Israel as anything other than an occupier and repressor of Palestinian rights. Arab commentators echo that thinking. "The hatred of Israel will not end until you start treating Palestinians with freedom and dignity," Egyptian journalist Mona Eltahawy said at the J Street conference. "This is the time for Israel to sit down and make concrete concessions."

In Jerusalem, the government is still in the wait-and-see mode, albeit with as much handwringing as possible.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, speaking in Brussels, warned that the danger is that democracy movements in the Arab world will be "hijacked," emulating the "model of Iran, the model of Hamas in Gaza, the model of Hezbollah in Lebanon," according to the German news agency DPA. Ayalon also said the unrest in the Arab world demonstrates that the notion of the Arab-Israel conflict being the region's most serious issue is just not true.

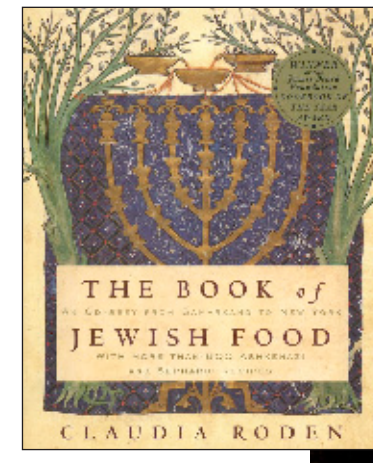
"The real major problem of the Middle East, which is now so glaringly evident, is the dysfunctionality of the Arab societies," Ayalon reportedly said, noting the absence of "rights of any kind." ■

Escaping the box: 18 minutes to Passover freedom

By Edmon J. Rodman

LOS ANGELES (JTA) -- In every generation, the Haggadah tells us, the wise, the simple, the non-askers and even the baddies are obligated to see themselves as though they themselves actually had come out from Egypt. Unfortunately, the closest many of us come to this ideal is a stroll through the Passover aisle of our neighborhood supermarket.

Why does Passover have to come in a neatly packaged box with easy bake instructions?



This Passover, to heat up and personalize my leaving from Egypt, I decided to forego the usual rectangular shrink wrapped packages of the holiday's mainstay, matzah. If our ancestors could prepare for their journey in one night by baking an unleavened quick bread, so could I.

In my best Mah Nishtanah singsong I chanted, "How hard could it be to bake homemade matzah?"

With only a teaspoon full of baking experience, I consulted Claudia Roden's authoritative *The Book of Jewish Food,* which assured me that Jewish people once "made unleavened bread at home." According to Rodin, all I needed was some "special hard wheat bread flour," spring water, an oven and a fork to poke holes in the rolled-out dough.

Problems rose immediately: The flour is harder to find than any afikomen. Many observant Jews will have nothing less than shmurah flour for their matzah, which is made from wheat that has been guarded from the time it was taken to the mill to ensure that it has not come in contact with fermentation-causing moisture.

Searching for shmurah flour, I called a kosher market where I shop.

"Don't have it," said David, one of the owners, adding, "And I don't think it's available anywhere commercially."

Next I tried a local Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi, Mendy Cunin.

"I can help arrange a trip to Crown Heights, where there is a matzah bakery," he suggested.

That meant traveling across the country to Brooklyn, N.Y. I was in a rush, I explained.

Unfazed, Rabbi Cunin suggested that as I proceeded, I should see the "humility of the matzah." "It's unlike the egotism of the challah, which is mostly air," he said. "With matzah, what you see is what you get."

A Conservative rabbi with whom I consulted had another opinion, believing that I could simply use kosher flour. She suggested that I was covered for Passover use under the principle of "batel b'shishim," a loophole which says that if a forbidden ingredient like chametz is less than one-sixtieth of the hole, then the product is still OK.

Still, if you choose to try this at home and the origin of your flour is important, please consult a religious authority; rabbis do differ.

I prepared my exodus from the box with a bag of kosher whole wheat flour and a bottle of spring water. I cranked up the oven as high as it would go, to 550 degrees. While waiting for the oven to reach the desired temperature, I removed my watch and laid it on the kitchen table; I would need it.

Someone long ago determined that the matzah-baking process from the time you add water to flour until you take the unleavened bread from the oven could not take more than 18 minutes. Longer than that and the mixture could rise and thus be leavened.

As I measured out the ingredients, three parts flour to one part water, it dawned on me that in addition to becoming a baker, I was now a game-show contestant, too. As I readied the mixing bowls and measuring cups, I imagined a show called "Unleaven Heaven" or "18 Minutes to Win It."

Round 1: I added water to flour, mixed it together with my hands, kneaded the sticky ball for a minute and slapped it down. With a rolling pin I flattened and spread the dough. I carefully poked wholes with a fork. But when it came time to lift the taco-sized round, the whole thing wouldn't budge. My exodus was stuck.

Round 2: I checked the instructions; I needed to knead longer. As I did, I could feel the dough becoming less sticky in my hands. For the bread made in haste the night before the departure from Egypt, patience was an unlisted ingredient.

I flipped the easily freed round into the oven and returned to rolling out another. But why did the kitchen smell like burning toast? I opened the oven door to matzah flambe. Two of the wonders of the Haggadah were happening right in my kitchen: fire and pillars of smoke.

Round 3: The fork wasn't working; to bake more crisply, the dough needed more holes. Veterans of matzah baking use a kitchen tool called a docker, a hand roller with spikes. I thought about buying one. What would Moses do? Didn't liberation call for taking freedom into your own hands? So with three forks, some duct tape and a piece of cardboard, I devised a "forkler."

I mixed, kneaded and rolled. I forkled.

Flipping the round into the oven with plenty of time to spare, this time I watched, guarding my freedom carefully. Still warm out of the oven, I admired my work as I ate it. It was one part haste, one part invention and one part humility, but all parts with meaning baked in.

And if it tasted like a chewier cardboard, well, it was my cardboard. ■

Edmon J. Rodman is a JTA columnist who writes on Jewish life from Los Angeles. Contact him at edmojace@gmail.com

Tony Michels,
University of Wisconsin

In the Shadow of Revolution: Communism, Anti-Communism, and the Jews

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 4pm
202 South Thayer St., Room 2022
University of Michigan

In the years following 1917, large numbers of American Jews welcomed the Bolshevik revolution, viewing it as both a beacon of social progress and the beginning of a Jewish cultural renaissance. Some went so far as to join the newborn American Communist Party with the hope of reenacting the Russian revolution on American soil. During the early 1930s, Communism grew into a popular movement among immigrant Jews and threatened to capture control of some of the largest Jewish workers' organizations. Yet the revolution also gave rise to a strong anti-Communist movement, not from the political right, but from leftists who initially supported the revolution. By 1924, an anti-Communist alliance had coalesced and would shape the Jewish labor movement and the American left as a whole for decades to come. This lecture will examine the roots of this conflict, when American Jews with close ties to Russia grappled with the revolution and its implications for Jews and socialists on both sides of the Atlantic.

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For more information, contact Eileen Freed
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Vitals

Mazal tov

Adira Cohen on her bat mitzvah, April 2
Emma Gerlinger on her bat mitzvah, April 2
Eva Kramer Rosenfeld on her bat mitzvah, April 2.
Hanna Clark on her bat mitzvah, April 9
Danielle Turner on her bat mitzvah, April 9.
Molly Shapiro on her bat mitzvah, April 16
Corey and Terese Bertcher on the birth of their son, David Joseph, February 14.
Rebecca and Kyle Morse on the birth of their son, Zephyr, February 14.
Shana and Kevin Olson on the birth of their son, Eli Ray, March 3.

Condolences

Renee Pinsky on the death of her father, Daniel Wayne, February 12.
Brad Seel on the death of his father, Dr. Allen Seel, February 27.
Lori Shepard on the death of her uncle, Louis DiPietro, February 8.
Gary Glick on the death of his mother, Yvette Glick, February 10.
Emily Wachsberger on the death of her aunt, Ruth Rose Gramet, February 11.
Eric Metzendorf on the death of his mother, Nancy Metzendorf, February 28.
Harry Silverman on the death of his mother, Elaine E. Silverman, March 2.

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Caracas Mall, continued from page 26

At Cafe Hillel, Adriana Coriat stops in for a bite at the behest of her 17-year-old daughter. The mall, Coriat says, is a welcome addition to the "Jewish bubble" at Club Hebraica, which is home to the community's school and also serves as a social and athletic club. Many Caracas Jews point to the club as a symbol of their community's unity.

"It's how we survive here, in our bubble," she said. "Crime follows us everywhere."

For her, the Jewish nature of the mall is less important than its convenient location. "It's close to the house and, more than anything, a safe place for kids. They can't just go out in the streets," Coriat said. "I drop my daughter off here at the door and I pick her up at the same spot."

Even more so than in North America, malls are a cornerstone of the social landscape in Caracas. Here, malls also feature upscale bars, lounges and restaurants. The idea is that it's safer to go out where club goers can bounce between night spots under one roof with secure indoor parking.

According to the government's own recently released statistics, the official murder rate stands at 48 per 100,000, which is above the Latin American average. Independent observers say the murder rate actually is much higher, at 118 per 100,000, making Caracas among the most violent cities in the world.

With just a few hours left before sunset, Menachem Gancz peruses the Jewish history section of the bookstore at Galerias Sebucan, which prominently features books on Kabbalah, the Zohar and "The Jews." The 25-year old Orthodox Torah teacher says that outside of the city's more well-to-do sections, he likely would feel compelled to cover up his kipah.

At this mall, no such precaution is necessary.

"Look around you," he said. "It's all Jews." ■

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